

SOLOMON THOUGHT ABOUT LIFE

ECCLESIASTES 1



CHRIST CONNECTION: The things we get in this world don't last forever. Only trusting in Jesus really matters. Jesus came to save people from sin so we can be with God forever.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: *What does God know? God knows everything.*

KEY PASSAGE: Fear the LORD and turn away from evil. Proverbs 3:7

STORY POINT: Solomon taught that God gives life meaning.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

The book of Ecclesiastes is part of the Old Testament poetry and wisdom division. Ecclesiastes was written by King Solomon toward the end of his life as he reflected on his legacy and leadership. Though he had all the riches and wisdom life had to offer, he relayed in this writing that nothing matters apart from fearing the Lord and walking in His ways.

If everything is worthless, how are we to live meaningful lives as Christ followers? How is Jesus able to redeem our purpose in life?

The overall tone of Ecclesiastes seems pretty dreary. Solomon spoke of the meaninglessness of all our hard work and effort as people in a fallen world. These ideas seem to be in stark contrast to the ideas of God's beautiful, wonderful creation that we find throughout Scripture. A deeper look reveals that Solomon wasn't commanding his readers to stop caring about working hard, investing in the next generation, or experiencing what life has to offer. Instead, he poetically explained how lives spent on pursuing only the things of this world have no eternal meaning and will not be remembered.

The pursuits of this life are done in vain when we place them above our pursuit of the Lord and the wisdom He provides. Everything loses its meaning when held up against the cross of Jesus Christ. Only a life built on faith in Jesus will matter in the end.

When we order our lives with Jesus as our main pursuit, we experience the purpose and meaning Christ died for us to receive; we experience life everlasting here and now. The gospel frees us from chasing after temporary, empty things and transforms our hearts to love and serve God. Christ died so that we may have life and have it in abundance (John 10:10).

Lead boys and girls to see the beauty of a life spent pursuing Christ! When all else seems meaningless, in Him we find our meaning as creations lovingly fashioned by a good Creator. Pray children would turn from their sins and receive the gift of abundant life



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10–15 MINUTES

Greet preschoolers and open the session



Social/Arrival Activities (8:45-9:10) (10:30-11:55)

WELCOME Preschoolers

Car Play

Set out car rug. Invite children to take turns pushing a toy vehicle around the roads. Free play with cars and ramp.

SAY “Do you enjoy driving cars around and around the circle? Solomon’s book says, ‘People are born, people die, and the world keeps going around. The sun goes up and down. The wind blows. Rivers flow into the sea, but the sea never gets too full. What you do today, you’ll do again tomorrow. It’s like a big circle that never ends.’ Solomon said this to teach people that the most important thing is to know and to follow God. The things we get in this world don’t last forever. Only trusting in Jesus really matters. Jesus came to save people from sin so we can be with God forever.”

PAINT WITH WATER

Gather kids at the table. Distribute paper and a paintbrush to each preschooler. Set cups of water within reach. Lead preschoolers to paint simple shapes on their papers using water and the paintbrush. (Note: Warn preschoolers ahead of time that their paintings will disappear or evaporate.)

SAY “What happened to the water? It evaporated! It was here one minute, and then it was gone!

Solomon taught that God gives life meaning. Nothing we get in this world lasts forever. Only trusting in Jesus really matters. Jesus came to rescue sinners so we can have life with God forever.”

3 PLAY A MATCHING GAME

Invite several children to play a matching game with you. Mix up the matching cards and place them in rows face down on a table. Invite a child to turn up two cards. If the cards match, the child can keep the cards. If not, guide the child to place the cards back where they were. Prompt the next child to turn up two more cards to try to find a match. Play until preschoolers match all cards.

SAY *[Place all of the cards faceup on the table so the pictures can be seen. Point to pictures of the sun as you talk.] King Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes: the sun goes up, the sun goes down, the wind blows all over the place, and there is nothing new under the sun. **Solomon taught that God gives life meaning.** The things we get in this world don’t last forever. Only trusting in Jesus really matters. Jesus came to save people from sin so we can be with God forever.*





LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

Bible Story Video/Worship Song (9:15-9:25) (11:00-11:10)

SAY “*In our Bible story today, we are going to hear about a book that King Solomon wrote. Listen carefully to the Bible story to hear the items we guessed.*”

Watch the Bible Story Video

Christ Connection:

SAY “*The things we have in this world don’t last forever. Only trusting in Jesus really matters. Jesus came to save people from sin so we can be with God forever.*”

PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Form a line of preschoolers at one side of the room. Invite preschoolers one at a time to say “Fear the Lord,” walk to the other side of the room, turn around, and say, “and turn away from evil” before returning to the starting point. Let each preschooler have a turn.

SAY “*King Solomon wrote a book telling people that the most important thing is to know and to follow God. **Solomon taught that God gives life meaning.***”



Craft (9:25-9:35) (11:10-11:20)

Sun Pictures

Give each child an activity sheet. Let them decorate the sun however they would like to with the art supplies provided in the tub. Review the Bible story while they create their pictures.

SAY *“Was Solomon wise? Yes! Solomon knew that the sun comes up and goes back down. He knew this world will not last forever, but Jesus does. Trusting in Jesus is all that matters.”*

Additional questions you can ask...

1. What did you like about the Bible story? (Answers will vary.)
2. What were some things in the Bible story that made you happy or sad? (Answers will vary.)
3. Who wrote a book called Ecclesiastes? (King Solomon)
4. Who gives life meaning? (God)
5. Whom should we trust in so we can have life with God forever? (Jesus)
6. What does God know? God knows everything.

Group/Bible Story Review (9:35-10:00) (11:20-11:45)

HOP THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Set out carpet circles in a hopscotch pattern. Read the key passage phrase aloud to children and demonstrate how to hop while saying the phrase, one word per jump. Guide a child to hop on the hopscotch pattern while repeating each word of the phrase with you. Repeat the process of hopping and saying the phrase with each child as time allows.

SAY “Let’s repeat the key passage phrase together again. ‘Fear the LORD and turn away from evil. Proverbs 3:7.’ This is what Solomon was writing about when he wrote Ecclesiastes. He was telling people that the most important thing they can do is to know God and to follow Him. That’s what it means to fear Him.”



LEARN

SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of "Are You Sleeping?":
What does God know? What does God know?
Everything, everything
There is no one like Him. There is no one like Him.
Trust His way. Trust His way.

PLAY CHARADES

Invite children to join you in the group time area to play a guessing game. Explain to the children that you are going to play out several things and their job is to guess what you are doing. Play out these things: writing on a page, reading/turning pages in a book, sun going up, flowing river. Thank the children for playing a game with you and invite them to listen carefully for the words you acted out while you tell them the Bible story.

PRAY

Pray, thanking God for giving us His Bible so that we can know Him better.

1st service volunteers, Please remember to set up the arrival activities for the children who will be attending second service. Thank you!

