

4th-5th Grade Lesson Plan

Sunday, January 11

UNIT 12 | SESSION 3

SOLOMON THOUGHT ABOUT LIFE

ECCLESIASTES 1

MAIN POINT / CHRIST CONNECTION: People spend their lives trying to get riches, power, and fame, but none of it lasts. Only a life spent trusting in Jesus as Savior and following Him will matter in the end. Jesus lived, died, and rose again so we could find purpose in Him and be with God forever.

CATECHISM QUESTION : Q) What is Justification? A) It is God regarding sinners as if they had never sinned. (“Just as if I’d never sinned”) (*Zec 3:1-5; Rom 3:24-26; 4:5; 8:33; 2Co 5:21; Heb 8:12*)

MEMORY VERSE of the Month: PROVERBS 3:7 - “Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.” (ESV)

Preparation

Lesson Context

This Unit: God gave Solomon great wisdom and made him king over His people. Solomon obeyed God and led the people in building the temple. Solomon learned that his own wisdom had limits, but God’s wisdom is limitless. Solomon reminds us of our need for Jesus, the sinless King who is true wisdom.

Volunteer Huddle | **8:45 a.m.**

Meet in the Threes classroom (first floor) for prayer and important info for this Sunday.

Prep Room | **8:50 a.m.**

- Put out activity pages (in Activity Box) and markers (in Teacher Box) on desks.
- If you’d like, put music on the Spotify app on the Roku TV.

- You can push tables back or to the sides to make space in the center or front of the room for activities.

Fellowship Time | 9:00 - 9:15 am

FELLOWSHIP TIME

Greet families at the door as they arrive. Allow children time to engage with one another and catch up. Use this time to get to know your students and hear about their week. What was a good part/hard part or “yay duck”/“yuck duck” of their week? If you’d like a prompting question for discussion, you can use the one below:

SAY: *What is the most special item you own? What makes it so special to you?*

ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead children to choose a desk and give them **an Activity Page and markers** (in Activity Box). You can also give them blank paper to draw or some playdough (in Teacher Box) if you prefer.

SAY: *We can follow many different paths in life, but only a life spent trusting in Jesus as Savior and following Him will matter in the end.*

REVIEW CLASSROOM RULES

Post the **Rules Poster** (in Activity Box) somewhere in the room.

1. **Be kind and respectful:** to your friends and teachers. Raise your hand and wait to be called; speak kindly to one another; use words and actions that build up and do not tear down; etc.
2. **Have a heart of obedience:** Listen to your teachers’ instructions and obey fully, quickly, and joyfully!
3. **Have self control:** Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself; keep all chair legs on the ground; no running or rough housing. Do not touch one another; let’s not poke each other, hit, kick, etc.

Group Activity | 9:10/9:15 am

“IT’S FLEETING” - CHASING THE WIND RELAY

Help each child blow up a **balloon** and then give each student a **plastic straw** (in Activity Box). Instruct students to go to one side of the classroom with their balloons. Have them try to move their balloon from that side of the room to the other side only by blowing the balloons through their straws.

SAY *Was that hard to do? Did it sometimes feel like you were chasing your balloon all around the room and getting nowhere? Did the balloon keep slipping away from you? Did it feel meaningless to do?*

Today, we are going to learn from Solomon that so much of life is fleeting; it slips away from us so quickly. He teaches that a lot of life is actually meaningless to chase after: lots of toys, money, being famous, etc. But what Solomon will teach us is that knowing God and following him is the only thing in life that has meaning and that will not go away.

Lesson | 9:20 am

Ask students to return to their desks and pass out **Bibles** (in Teacher Box). Let them know of your expectations during the lesson: listening to the teacher, sitting quietly with hands and feet to themselves, etc.

1. Introduce the Lesson + Pray

SAY *Hi, kids! I am excited you are here to learn God’s Word. If you have a Bible with you, will you hold it up? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] Today, we will be in the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes. It is believed that the author of Ecclesiastes was King Solomon.*

As we hear our story, we will see that Solomon taught that life has no meaning apart from God. We’ll learn how Solomon described how trying to gain riches or power or fame will not matter in the end. We find meaning, purpose, and joy when we follow Jesus. Let’s pray together.

2. Catechism Question

Use the **Catechism Question** posters to review previous questions and learn the new one for this week (in Activity Box).

SAY: *Let's review our new catechism question from last week:*

Q) What is Justification?

A) It is God regarding sinners as if they had never sinned.

Romans 3:23 says that every one of us has sinned. In order to be saved, we need to be justified. We need Christ's righteousness to cover us so that God sees no sin in us.

Let's review all of the catechism questions together:

Q) What is sin?

A) Sin is going our own way instead of God's way.

Q) What is righteousness?

A) It is God's goodness.

Q) Did our Lord Jesus Christ ever sin?

A) No. He was holy, blameless, and undefiled.

Q) What kind of death did Christ die?

A) The painful and shameful death of the Cross in the place of sinners.

Q) What is Justification?

A) It is God regarding sinners as if they had never sinned.

3. Using Bibles

SAY: *Today, we will be in the book of ECCLESIASTES. Ecclesiastes comes after Psalms and Proverbs in the middle of the Bible. This book is part of what we call wisdom literature because it helps us know how to live rightly in the world.*

1. *Turn to the Table of Contents at the front of your Bibles and look under the Old Testament category to find the book of ECCLESIASTES. Turn to that page number.*
2. *Once you've found ECCLESIASTES, I would like you to find chapter 1.*

4. Tell the Bible Story

Open your Bible to **ECCLESIASTES 1** and ask children to turn in their Bibles.

SOLOMON THOUGHT ABOUT LIFE

Solomon was the richest man in the world. He was famous. He was wiser than any man who had ever lived. He was the most powerful person in all of Israel. Yet, Solomon realized that having all these gifts could never give his life meaning and purpose.

Solomon wrote a book called Ecclesiastes to teach this truth to other people. The book begins this way:

“‘Absolutely worthless,’ says the Teacher.

‘Everything is absolutely worthless.’

What does a person gain for all his hard work?

All his sweat and effort that he gives under the sun?

A generation of people dies, and another is born,

But the earth is pretty much the same as it has always been.

The sun rises and sets over and over, the same as it always has.

The wind rushes to the south, then to the north, and it’s always turning in cycles.

The streams all flow to the sea, but the sea is never full, and the streams keep flowing.

Everything is so tiring, more than anyone wants to say out loud.

No matter what you see, you always want to see more.

No matter what you hear, you always want to hear more.

What has been before will be again.

What you do today, you’ll have to do again tomorrow.

There is nothing new anywhere under the sun.

No one remembers the people who came before them.

And no one who will be born in the future will be remembered either.”

Solomon wanted people to realize that no matter what we do on earth, none of it really matters unless we are living for God’s glory. **Knowing and serving God is what truly matters and what will last forever** (Eccl. 8:12).

4. Christ Connection

SAY: *People spend their lives trying to get riches, power, and fame, but none of it lasts. Only a life spent trusting in Jesus as Savior and following Him will matter in the end. Jesus lived, died, and rose again so we could find purpose in Him and be with God forever.*

Review & Video | 9:30 am

Bible Story Video

If you'd like, watch the **Bible lesson video** on the YouTube app on the TV (*YouTube account should be Fellowship Kids (switch accounts on the top of the left sidebar if not) > go to Library on the left side bar > Choose Playlists on the top > choose your classroom).*

Review the Bible Story

Invite children to **open their Bibles to ECCLESIASTES 1:12-14.**

SAY - Let's review a section of scripture from our Bible lesson today. Please turn to **ECCLESIASTES 1:12-14. Have a volunteer read the passage.**

- 1. Who does verse 12 say the writer of this book is?**
 - a. *The author of the book calls himself the Preacher, who is king over Israel in Jerusalem. The assumption is that it is King Solomon.*
- 2. What does the Preacher say he is seeking and searching out?**
 - a. *He said he wanted to seek out with wisdom all that is done under heaven. He wants to understand all that we as humans are busy with.*
- 3. The Preacher says that all that we do is like chasing after the wind. Do you think you could catch hold of wind? What do you think Solomon is trying to explain?**
 - a. *You cannot catch wind; trying to chase after wind would be silly and pointless. Solomon is explaining that so much of what we chase after does not actually matter eternally.*
- 4. Read ECCLESIASTES 12:13. At the end of the book, what does Solomon say actually is a meaningful thing to do? What is our duty as man?**

- a. *Solomon says to fear God and keep his commandments. Knowing God and obeying him gives us true purpose and it will matter eternally.*

Pray

Ask students if they have any **prayer requests**. Pray about what you learned in the lesson and for any requests.

Memory Verse | 9:35 am

Show the **memory verse poster** (in Activity Box). Open your Bible to **PROVERBS 3:7** and lead the kids to read the verses together. You can also write the verse on the whiteboard so that children can see it more clearly.

“Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.”

- PROVERBS 3:7

FILL IN THE BLANK

Begin writing the verse on the white board but keep key words blank. Ask children to fill in the missing words. Repeat the verse several times together.

SAY: *King Solomon had more wisdom, riches, and power than anyone. Yet, he realized the emptiness of a life lived without God. He wrote Proverbs 3:7 to remind people where true wisdom comes from.*

Extra Time Activity

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

On individual slips of paper, write down a common idiom for each group of two or three kids. For example, “piece of cake” (describes something easy), “break a leg” (good luck), “under the weather” (feeling sick), “raining cats and dogs” (stormy weather), “bull in a China shop” (to be clumsy or to not be careful), “apple of my eye” (something or someone who is cherished above all others), “fish out of water” (in a strange or uncomfortable situation). Then invite groups to guess the meaning of their phrase. Offer assistance for phrases that may be too difficult or consider writing the meanings on a dry erase board for groups to guess from.

SAY *These phrases have meanings that are different from the actual words. Sometimes our world gives us messages that are different from the truth of God’s words. We can be tempted to gain meaning from the world rather than God. Today, we will learn how the true meaning of life can only be found in Jesus.*


Dismissal | 9:50 am

As parents arrive,

- Match the 4 digit code on the parent’s tag to the child’s tag
- Check out the child on the tablet by clicking the check box to the left of their name on the roster.
- **Give feedback!** Tell parents how the student did that morning.

Clean Up

- Wipe down tables if any messes were made with activities. [Magic eraser sponges can erase markings on desks.]
- Put teacher and activity items back in the Activity Box or Teacher Box.
- Place the TV remote in the white holder on the dry erase board.

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- Return the small Activity Box, class tablet, and your lanyards to the check-in desk.