



Sunday School Study Plan for April 2023 with Dr. Dewayne Dickens and Mrs. Hazel Reed
Topic for the Four Weeks (April 2, 16, 23, and 30) **no session for Easter, 4/9/2023**
“Solomon’s Quest for Understanding: Making Meaning of Life’s Frustrations”

Week 1 (April 2): Impressions and Purpose of Ecclesiastes
Varied, but general reading Ecclesiastes 1-3

Guiding Questions:

1. From what you see in Ecclesiastes 2:26, 3:12, 5:19, 7:14, and 11:9, how would you summarize the kind of teaching that the book appears to give about happiness or joy?
2. Find the most prominent activity that recurs in the following verses: 2:24, 3:13, 4:9, 5:19, 8:15, and 10:15. What clues could this offer about the central message of Ecclesiastes?
3. Look at the word that is repeated in 1:2. Then scan the rest of the book to notice how frequently it is used in Ecclesiastes. What do you know of this word as it is used here in Ecclesiastes?
4. What do you discover in 11:9 and 12:1 about the intended audience for this book?
5. What evidence do 1:1, 1:12-13, 1:16, 2:1-9, and 12:9-10 provide in helping us identify the author of this book?

WEEKLY HOMEWORK

1. READ TEXT FOR THE WEEK
2. USE A STUDY APPROACH TO RE-READ TEXT FOR PERSONAL AND BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS
 - A. CONSIDER 3 INSIGHTS, 2 SIGNIFICANT VERSES, AND ONE KEY WORD FOR DISCUSSION
 - B. USE BIBLICAL COMMENTARIES ON TEXT TO GIVE CONTEXT OR BACKGROUND
 - C. REVIEW VARIED TRANSLATIONS TO COMPARE MEANINGS
3. CONNECT LESSONS TO SERMONS FROM PAST DECADES AND LAST SEVERAL MONTHS

(Note: No Sunday School April 9 – only Easter Service!!!)

Week 2 (April 16): Making Sense out of Life
Ecclesiastes 1-6; 1 Kings 3, 4 10, and 11; Romans 8:20

Guiding Questions:

1. Consider Solomon’s wisdom (1 Kings 3: 5-28; 1 Kings 4: 29-34; 1 Kings 10: 1-5; 1 Kings 11: 1-10); how does a man with such great wisdom move from wisdom into folly, from obedience to rebellion?
2. Describe the contrast between seeking pleasure (Ecclesiastes 2: 10-12) and finding enjoyment (Ecclesiastes 2: 24-26).
3. Ecclesiastes 2: 17-26 What is the value of work?
4. Consider Romans 8:20; describe how God subjected creation to futility for a purpose.
5. Ecclesiastes 3:1 - Ecclesiastes 4:3 Who is really in control?
6. Ecclesiastes 4:4 - Ecclesiastes 5:7 What attitudes should we embrace?
7. Ecclesiastes 5:8 - Ecclesiastes 6:12 What does it take to be content?

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2 Timothy 2:15, KJV: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." **2 Timothy 2:15**, NASB: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."



Week 3 (April 23): Wisdom through Frustrations of Life

Ecclesiastes 7-9

Guiding Questions:

1. In light of the apparent vanity of life (Ecclesiastes 7: 15-18), describe Solomon's recommended balanced approach to living.
2. How does Ecclesiastes 7: 26-29 provide a possible statement of Solomon's repentance and evidence that he turned his heart back to the LORD his God?
3. How shall we live under authority? Ecclesiastes 8: 2-17
4. What meaning does death bring to life? Ecclesiastes 9: 1-12
5. In considering how Solomon turned away from God, how does this speak to Rev. C.L. Potter's statements about "saved but not safe" faith between youth and old age?

Week 4 (April 30): Living Life Sensibly

Ecclesiastes 9-12; 2 Timothy 2:19; 2 Timothy 3:7; Malachi 3:16; Luke 10:20; 1 Corinthians 15

Guiding Questions

1. Contrast the concept that man may quickly forget (Ecclesiastes 9: 13-16) compared to God's never forgetting (2 Timothy 2:19; Malachi 3:16; Luke 10:20). How does this further expand perspective of life below and above the sun?
2. How do we live sensibly? Ecclesiastes 9:13 - Ecclesiastes 10:20
3. What is the danger addressed in the proverb of Ecclesiastes 10:15 and the in 2 Timothy 3:7?
4. Is it worth the risk? Ecclesiastes 11:1 - Ecclesiastes 12:8
5. What makes life meaningful? Ecclesiastes 12:9-14; 1 Corinthians 15:19; 1 Corinthians 15:58
6. What lessons of aging in faith should be passed along to those who are in their youth as they struggle with meaning making of life?