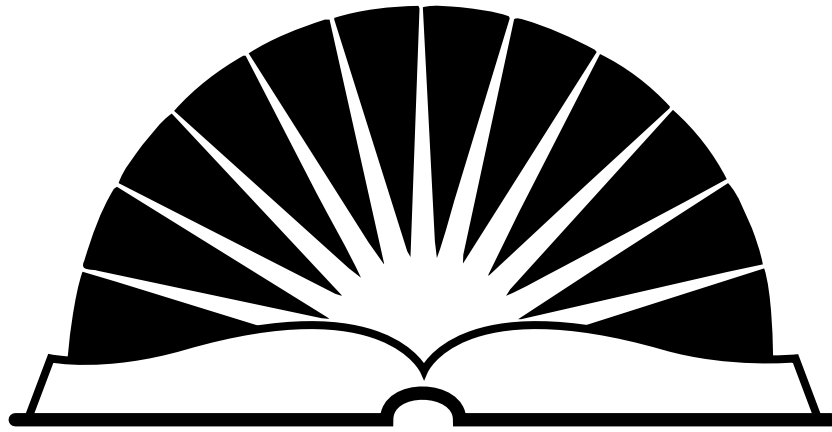


ECCLEL



JOY OF LIVING  
BIBLE STUDIES

# ECCLSIASTES

## Youth Bible Study

by Pat Kampenga

Sample  
Lesson

## ECCLESIASTES - WEEK ONE

### NO LESSON DISCUSSION

15 - 20 min. fellowship, free time; make name tags

15 - 20 min. snack and group recreation: SIMPLE RELAY

Form lines of 5-6 players, one behind the other, behind an imaginary (or real) line. At the opposite end, place a chair, or other object, or another imaginary line. First player in each line, at the signal races to the opposite goal line, or around the object, back to his line. Tags the next player in line and goes to the end of the line and sits down. Game continues until all players on one team are seated.

15 - 20 min. Since there is no lesson for them to discuss, this is a good time to go over the class rules. You may wish to have them share something about themselves, i.e. brothers, sisters, where they live, what they did over the summer, etc.

to end of class CRAFT: WORDLESS WITNESS BRACELET \*

#### MATERIALS

15 inches of leather cord

one bead each:

clear, black, red, white, blue, green, yellow

Knot one end of cord, then string on clear bead. Tie another knot 5 inches from clear bead, then string on beads in color order above; knot cord next to last bead. String un-knotted end through clear bead to form circle (you may need to use a pencil to poke it through) and knot end.

*\*As adapted from Child Evangelism Fellowship Wordless Book, first designed by Charles Spurgeon in 1866.*

(See page 8 for Meaning of Wordless Witness Bracelet.)

## Meaning of Wordless Witness Bracelet

CLEAR	Represents Christ's call to repent and put our faith in Him alone; John 14:6.
KNOT	Represents your birth — physical, spiritual; John 3:6a; 1:13.
BLACK	Represents spiritual darkness because of sin before our new birth; Romans 3:23.
RED	Represents the blood Jesus shed to pay the penalty for sin; Romans 5:8.
WHITE	Represents the forgiveness and cleansing to those who trust in Christ; Acts 3:19.
BLUE	Represents public profession declared by baptism; Acts 2:41.
GREEN	Represents spiritual growth which occurs as we pray, worship, read the Bible, etc.; 2 Peter 3:18.
YELLOW	Represents heaven and glory with Christ; Revelation 21:1-3.
KNOT	Represents the end of life when every person will stand before God; Hebrews 9:27; 2 Corinthians 5:10.

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## ECCLESIASTES - LESSON 1

### Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verse on your paper.

In the first seven chapters of Ecclesiastes, the Teacher, or Preacher, wonders what will make him happy. He tries all the good things the world has to offer. He tries to find happiness by having fun, getting things, making money, and learning all he could by going to school. But, he learns, just as we must learn, true happiness comes through a belief in God and a personal relationship with His Son Jesus Christ.

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 1, verses 1 - 12.

1. What do verses 1 and 12 tell us about the Teacher?
2. From these two verses, only, who do you think could be the Teacher?
3. Solomon wants to know "Where can man find happiness and satisfaction?" Psalm 40:8 gives us a clue. What does it say?
4. CHALLENGE: When should we start to learn about God's law? See 2 Timothy 3:14, 15.
5. How should those who are in God's family through faith in Jesus Christ live? See Colossians 3:17.

### Reread Ecclesiastes chapter 1, verses 4 - 12.

1. According to verses 4-7, what comes and goes?
2. Read Genesis 1, verses 1,3,6,9,11,14,16,20,25, and 27. Who created the things Solomon talks about?

3. What does Psalm 113:3 tell us we are to do?
  
4. Man can't make the wind stop blowing. Who can make the wind stop? See Mark 4:39 for your answer.
  
5. PERSONAL: Have you ever wanted something so much, you dreamed and talked about it? You even saw just what you wanted in the store or catalog. Then you received this thing as a gift. You may have been happy with it, until you decided you wanted something else. What does Psalm 37:4 say will make us glad?

**Read Ecclesiastes chapter 1, verses 13 - 18.**

1. The wisdom Solomon speaks about and the things he has tried, have not included God. He sounds sad. He tried everything in the world, but he found nothing that kept him happy. Where does the believer in Jesus find happiness? See Habakkuk 3:17,18.

## ECCLESIASTES - WEEK TWO

### DISCUSSION - LESSON ONE

15 - 20 min. free time - games, fellowship;

15 - 20 min. snack and group recreation: SNATCH THE HANDKERCHIEF

Form two teams; number each player with corresponding numbers; each team forms a line at least five yards apart and line up facing each other. Place a handkerchief, rag, or other item, between the teams. The leader calls out a number, the two players with that number race toward the handkerchief, trying to grab it. The one who grabs it first, races back to the team line, while the opponent tries to tag him. One point is scored for the player returning safely to his line with the handkerchief. Return handkerchief to starting point and repeat play.

15 - 20 min. discussion LESSON 1.

to end of class CRAFT: COLOR PICTURES

#### MATERIALS

construction paper  
magazines

Have kids cut out and use magazines pictures to create a picture depicting what makes them happy. Then, have them do the same with what makes them sad.

## ECCLESIASTES - LESSON 1 ANSWERS

In the first seven chapters of Ecclesiastes, the Teacher, or Preacher, wonders what will make him happy. He tries all the good things the world has to offer. He tries to find happiness by having fun, getting things, making money, and learning all he could by going to school. But, he learns, just as we must learn, true happiness comes through a belief in God and a personal relationship with His Son Jesus Christ.

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 1, verses 1 - 12.

1. What do verses 1 and 12 tell us about the Teacher? “The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem.” (verse 12) “I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem.” (NIV)
2. From these two verses, only, who do you think could be the Teacher? Solomon.
3. Solomon wants to know “Where can man find happiness and satisfaction?” Psalm 40:8 gives us a clue. What does it say? “I am so happy to do what You want, my God. For Your law is written on my heart!”
4. CHALLENGE: When should we start to learn about God’s law? See 2 Timothy 3:14, 15. “But you must keep on believing the things you have been taught. You know they are true. You know that you can trust those of us who have taught you. When you were a small child, you were taught the Holy Bible. It makes you wise to accept God’s salvation by trusting in Christ Jesus.”
5. How should those who are in God’s family through faith in Jesus Christ live? See Colossians 3:17. “And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (NIV)

### Reread Ecclesiastes chapter 1, verses 4 - 12.

1. According to verses 4-7, what comes and goes? “Fathers, sons, and then grandsons come and go. But nothing ever changes. The sun rises and sets. Then it hurries around to rise again. The wind blows south and north, here and there. It twists back and forth and gets nowhere. The rivers run into the sea. But the sea is never full. And the water goes back again to the rivers. Then it flows again to the sea.”
2. Read Genesis 1, verses 1,3,6,9,11,14,16,20,25, and 27. Who created the things Solomon talks about? GOD.
3. What does Psalm 113:3 tell us we are to do? “Praise the Lord from sunrise to sunset!”

4. Man can't make the wind stop blowing. Who can make the wind stop? See Mark 4:39 for your answer. Jesus. "Then He spoke to the wind and the sea. He said, 'Quiet down!' Suddenly, the wind fell! And there was a great calm!"
5. PERSONAL: Have you ever wanted something so much, you dreamed and talked about it? You even saw just what you wanted in the store or catalog. Then you received this thing as a gift. You may have been happy with it, until you decided you wanted something else. What does Psalm 37:4 say will make us glad? "Be delighted with the Lord. Then He will give you all your heart's desires."

**Read Ecclesiastes chapter 1, verses 13 - 18.**

1. The wisdom Solomon speaks about and the things he has tried, have not included God. He sounds sad. He tried everything in the world, but he found nothing that kept him happy. Where does the believer in Jesus find happiness? See Habakkuk 3:17,18. "Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord. I will be joyful in God my Savior."

[The object of this lesson is to focus on what makes people truly happy. It is important for the young student to learn early that happiness comes from the Lord. As leaders, it is our responsibility to help the youngster look to God for happiness. Soon enough they will try the world's ways, as Solomon did, and prayerfully they will come to the same conclusion. Lasting happiness is in the Lord, not the things of this world.]