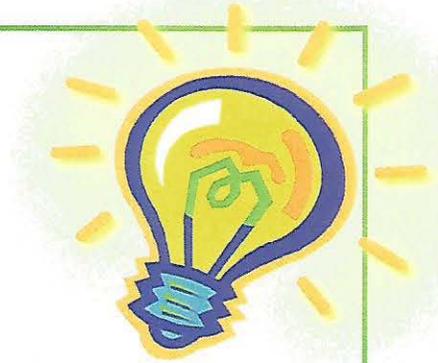


Lesson 10

What Is Life All About?



Theme: True Happiness – Seeing that God has set eternity in our hearts

Sunday Morning Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Shine a Light on the Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Write the Memory Verse as words or phrases on several sticky notes. Stick each note on a students' shirt. Have students form a line and put themselves in order to arrange the Memory Verse. For older students, place the sticky notes on their backs so they must work together to complete the project. Place sentence strips in the pocket chart to show the verse. Talk briefly about the meaning of the verse and how it relates to the quarter's study.

Prayer

Teaching Today's Lesson

1. For non-reading students, read Ecclesiastes 2:26a. Have reading students find and mark Ecclesiastes 2:26 in the classroom Bibles.
2. Ask students to bring the Bibles and move to the Bible story area.
3. Introduce Lesson Graphics using "A Great Find" as described on page 9 in this Guide.
4. Tell the story using the *Lighting the Way Lesson Graphics* and other props.
5. Tell the story and teach the lesson emphasizing the following scenes and points, tailored to the students' ages:
 - The book of Ecclesiastes describes all the things "the Preacher" did to try to make himself happy.
 - God has put eternity in our hearts.
 - Having eternity in our hearts means that we want to know God and be with Him forever.
 - "God gives wisdom, knowledge, and happiness to a man who pleases Him...." Ecclesiastes 2:26a
 - The only thing that makes us truly happy forever is knowing God and being with God and Jesus forever.

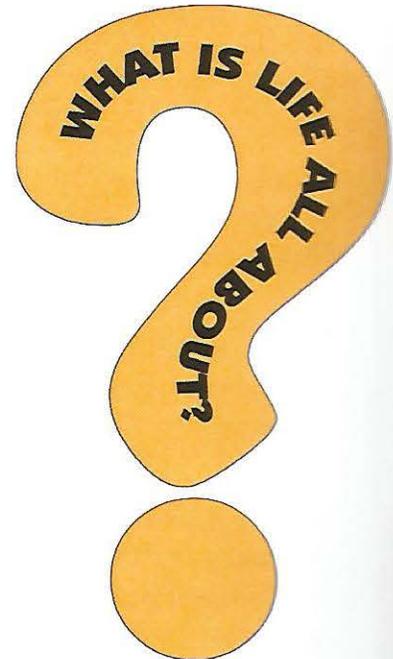
- 6. Make a huge question mark out of poster board. Attach or write letters on both sides that ask “What is Life All About?” down the center of the question mark. Suspend the display from the ceiling with fishing line or string. This is to get before the students *the* question of Ecclesiastes. You will have opportunity to refer to this question many times in the lessons about Ecclesiastes.
- 7. Bring props to illustrate the four big things the Preacher tried so he could find out what life is all about.

Is it about learning? (Ecclesiastes 1:12-18) – have books, papers, and pencils. If you do great in every subject, make all A’s, and get a fantastic education, is this what life is all about? Will all this make you truly happy forever?

Is it about having a good time? (Ecclesiastes 2:1-2) – have movies, toys, and video games. Does all this make you happy? What happens when the movie is over, when the toy gets old or breaks, or when you’ve beaten the video game? Does all this make your life great forever?

Is it about drinking alcohol? (Ecclesiastes 2:3) – have a wine bottle or beer can, or an advertisement. People drink to forget their troubles or to feel high. But what is the rest of the story? People get sick, wreck cars, and do crazy things. Is this happiness?

Is it about having stuff? (Ecclesiastes 2:4-10) – have jewelry, car keys, and nice clothes. Read what the Preacher got for himself. Think about all the “things” you can have. If you had them all, would you really be happy forever?



A Note About Teaching Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes is covered in three lessons. To prevent overlapping, look ahead and see the subject matter of each lesson.

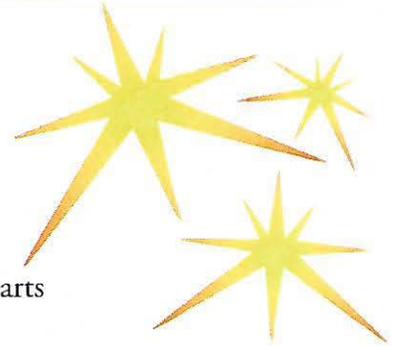
- Lesson 10, *What is Life All About?* addresses the issue of the book that there must be something more than what’s “under the sun.”
- Lesson 11, *Being Happy*, deals with how the Preacher tried to find happiness.
- Lesson 12, *Respecting and Obeying God*, shows the right conclusion to the big search.

Things to Get or Do for Sunday Morning

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Lesson 10

What Is Life All About?



Theme: True Happiness – Seeing that God has set eternity in our hearts

Wednesday Night Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Shine a Light on the Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Using the sticky notes from Sunday, stick them at different places around the classroom. Have students find the sticky notes and arrange them correctly on the marker board to display the verse. Place sentence strips in the pocket chart to show the verse. Read the Memory Verse together.

Prayer

Starter

I'm sure you've wondered why you have to take a bath, or eat your vegetables, or go to school ... especially the part about the vegetables! Maybe your dad or mom made you taste squash or lima beans, when you're sure you hate them. You wonder why they make such a big deal out of vegetables, when you like to eat many other food items.

Your dad and mom may know something you don't yet know. They know vegetables are good for you. They know children often decide they don't like something before they try it. They know we can learn to eat and enjoy food, even when we don't like it at first. For these reasons, and maybe more, your parents make you take a bite of something you really don't want. They may even explain all this to you, and try to give some "meaning" to eating lima beans!

You may never like squash or lima beans, but at least you gave them a try. You might also learn you really like one of the vegetables and it gets on your "Favorite Food" list. If so, it's because your parent(s) took you through the process of trying and learning.

The process your parents took you through with vegetables is similar to what one man did with life. The Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes opens with the question, "What advantage does man have in all his work Which he does under the sun?" (1:3). The man who asked this question calls himself "the Preacher." He was trying to find out what life is all about. What he found will help us live lives that are good and full. Let's see what he says.

Illustrations and Applications

1. *Objective: Define "under the sun"*

The Preacher's favorite way of describing where he is and where he is searching is "under the sun." Have a picture of the sun shining on the earth. Ask where is "under the sun?" Is it in the solar system? No. Is it on another planet? No. Is it on the moon? No. Is it on earth? Yes!

2. *Objective: Illustrate vanity*

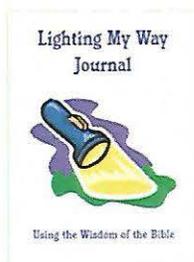
Wrap two identical boxes. Line one box inside with black paper or put nothing but black tissue inside. Wrap this box in an extremely fancy way. Inside the second box, place pictures of a heart, smiles, a family, and a small Bible. Wrap this box nicely, but rather ordinary. Have a student unwrap each box slowly as you tell the story of that box to reveal what is inside. The fancy box is a person who focuses his or her life on having things, going places, and doing things. When others see them, they look great and are always having fun. But when you look inside, not much is there. They have no real purpose in life and no relationship with God. The ordinary box is a person who lives for God. He or she is happy, content, and at peace with people and God. He knows he has a future in heaven. When you look inside this person, he has strong relationships with people and God. Which is “vanity”?

3. *Objective: Illustrate eternity*

Have two buckets – one filled with sand and the other empty. Have students take turns moving one grain of sand, or the smallest amount he can get, from the full bucket to the empty one. When everyone in the class has done this twice, look at how much sand has been moved. Talk about how long it would take to move the entire bucket of sand to the empty bucket one grain at a time. This would take a long time. Now think about moving all the sand in the world one grain at a time. This would take even longer. And when we have done this, eternity has just barely begun. It’s hard to think about that, isn’t it? Eternity is really having no end at all. This is what God has put in our hearts – that we want to be with Him forever and ever. Things “under the sun” may be nice, but they won’t make us happy and they won’t fill our hearts forever and ever. Only God can do this!

4. *Objective: Thinking about how the Preacher tried to find out what life is all about*

Use the props from Sunday morning that were used to illustrate what people do to find out what life is all about. Have the students tell you what the props represent – learning, having a good time, drinking alcohol, having stuff. Ask them what they learned Sunday morning that helps them think clearly and correctly about life “under the sun.”



Some things in life are “vanity” because ...
This will help me ...

Things to Get or Do
for Wednesday Night

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