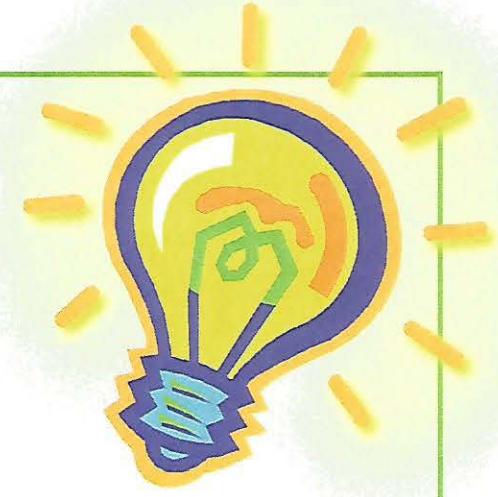


Lighting the Way



Lesson 11

Being Happy

Theme: Contentment – Being happy with what we have

Memory Verse

“Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.”

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Daily Bible Readings

Thursday	Ecclesiastes 4:1-3, 8-12
Friday	Ecclesiastes 5:10-16, 18-19
Saturday	Ecclesiastes 6:1-3
Monday	Ecclesiastes 7:1-4, 9, 19, 29
Tuesday	Ecclesiastes 8:12-14, 16-17

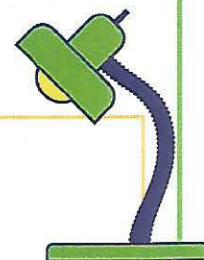
The writer of Ecclesiastes started to see that life in the world is something like a ride in an amusement park. You stand in a long line to get on the ride — thirty minutes or maybe even an hour. Finally your turn comes, and you get on. The ride takes off, builds speed, goes up, down, around, and back up again. People are screaming and everything around you is a blur. Two minutes later, the ride is slowing down and you’re back where you started. Now, it’s off to another line and another ride.

Ecclesiastes 4:1-3, 8-12

The Preacher saw hurt and sadness in the world. When he did, who did he think was better off?

- The living
- The dead
- One who had never been born

The Preacher observed someone who worked all the time and had many things, but had no family. Was he happy?





Ecclesiastes 5:10-16, 18-19

True or False? If you have a lot of money and use it well, you will be happy.

God's gifts to us in "life under the sun" are ...

- riches and family.
- eating, drinking, and enjoying life.
- popularity and fun.

We get some thrill from riding. It's different than many other things we do, and it gives us a few seconds of excitement. But when it's over, we put our feet down on the same ground as before and walk away. If you stop and think about it, you might wonder if the ride is really worth the money and the time it took.

Round and Round We Go

The Preacher took a long, hard look at life "under the sun." He tried and saw many things, and most of it was "vanity" — it was empty and useless. He discovered that the purpose of life is not found in knowing things or having money. Life's meaning is not found in having a good time or buying houses and lands. He noticed that being powerful or smart really don't make people happy either. The Preacher thought some of these things would surely make him happy, but they didn't.

If we try to make our lives mean something with what we find in the world, we'll just be chasing the wind. It'll be like the ride we thought about before — round and round and round we go; but when it's over, that's about it. We stood in line for a few minutes' thrill. Life "under the sun" is like this in many ways.

Eat, Drink, and Be Merry

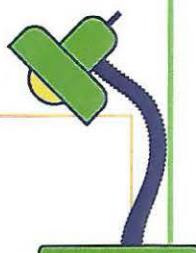
God put us on earth, and we wake up every morning. There must be something important here, something that makes life "under the sun" useful. The Preacher learned what it is, and he says it several times in his book—that we must see life as a gift from God and live it the way He wants us to.

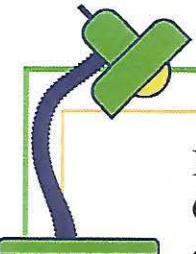
The Preacher learned that life under the sun will always be empty unless we look beyond the sun. Life in the world is empty unless we live by God's will. We must learn about God's way and obey Him to have a good life and be happy.

We can get on a ride and go round and round, round and round. We can live life the way we want to, without including God. We can go after all the fun, money, knowledge, and power we can get. But if we do all of

Ecclesiastes 6:1-3

True or False? A person who has money and a family will always be happy.





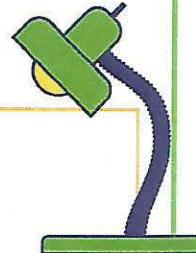
Ecclesiastes 7:1-4, 9, 19, 29

Going to a place of sadness is better than going to a place of feasting because ...

- if there is too much food, you might eat too much and get sick.
- everyone will die at some point, so we need to think about what will happen to us when we do.

this without God in our lives, it will all be for nothing.

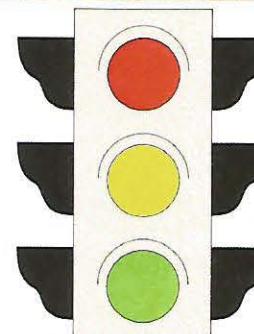
The way to live is to know everything is a gift of God to be used in the way He plans. If we love and follow God, our lives are useful and not empty.



Ecclesiastes 8:12-14, 16-17

True or False? Evil people always have bad things happen to them and good people always have good things happen to them.

When something bad happens to a friend, I think he has done something wrong.



Put an X in the light that best describes you.

Red — all the time

Yellow — sometimes

Green — usually not

**Think
About
It ...**

It takes a long time to learn to read and write. For some people, it is hard work. On the left side of the box below, list several ways we use our reading and writing skills. On the right side, list some ways we can use these skills to serve God.

I use reading and writing ...

1. To play video games
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

I use reading and writing to serve God ...

1. To read this lesson
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Shine a Light on the Bible Facts



Which book of the Old Testament is about the people returning to Jerusalem and rebuilding the temple?

Write the names of the twelve sons of Jacob?

On a map inside the back cover that shows the regions of Canaan, label the two kingdoms of the Divided Kingdom — Judah and Israel.