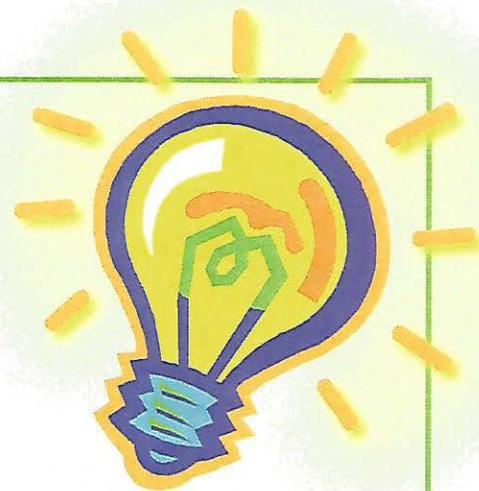


Lighting the Way



Lesson 12

Respecting and Obeying God

Theme: Serving God – Respecting and obeying God throughout life

Memory Verse

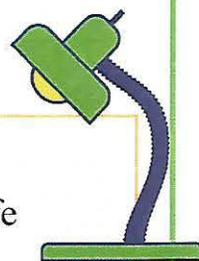
“Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.”

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Daily Bible Readings

Thursday	Ecclesiastes 9:1-9
Friday	Ecclesiastes 9:10-17
Saturday	Ecclesiastes 10:5-20
Monday	Ecclesiastes 11
Tuesday	Ecclesiastes 12

Some days just don't turn out the way we plan them. Sometimes the computer stops working or our favorite shirt gets a big hole in it or and we wake up with pink eye on the day of our birthday party. Life is not always great, and it's not always fun.



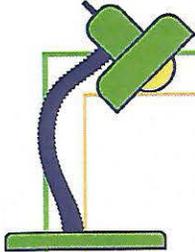
Don't Be Sad

We have to understand that much of life is out of people's control. People can't control nature and one person can't control other people. The Preacher learned that life is in God's hands. God knows what He is doing, but He doesn't always tell us. If He told us everything, we probably wouldn't understand much of it anyway.

Ecclesiastes 9:1-9

The Preacher found out that life is ...

- not always fair.
- always miserable.
- hopeless.



Ecclesiastes 9:10-17

What two things happen to everyone and everything?

- Begin and end
- Time and chance
- Good and bad

What does this mean?

After thinking this through, the Preacher learned an important lesson. He advises us to eat and drink happily, and enjoy life with our family as much as we can. Life is short, but God has provided things we can enjoy in the world as we follow His Word.

Don't Give Up

After looking at life for a while, the Preacher decided that time and chance are always at work. This means that time passes whether we want it to or not. Hours turn into days, days into weeks, weeks into months, months into years. Also, things happen that we can't change even if we want to. The wise man says the fastest man doesn't always win the race. The smartest people are not always the richest. Sometimes things happen to the fastest

and smartest people that slow them down or keep them from being rich.

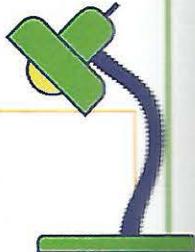
The Preacher saw many things in life that were not equal or fair. He tells of a poor wise man who, by his wisdom, delivered a whole city from an attacker. But no one remembered the poor man. That's not fair, but that's life. He noticed that a man may dig a pit, then fall in it. That's too bad, but it happens. Some people have nothing to say, but they talk a lot anyway. We may not like it, but there's little we can do to change some things.

So, what should we do? Should we get tired of living and just give up? No, the Preacher learned that we should work hard and put our hearts into it. We must not give up. We must live our lives as close to God as we can. This is the only smart way to live.

Fear God and Keep His Commandments

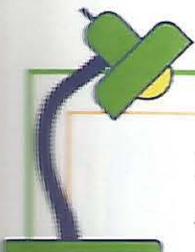
The Preacher looked at life and thought about it. He wondered, thought, tried things, and asked questions. Along the way, he learned some important things that we should learn. He learned we can enjoy our lives if we always remember God.

Children grow up, and young people grow old. Children don't stay children for long. We don't stay at any one stage of life but for a few years. Usually sooner than we wish, death comes and we go to meet God. Should we let all this



Ecclesiastes 10:5-20

True or False? Everything in life always turns out like it should, like you planned, like you want it to.



Ecclesiastes 11

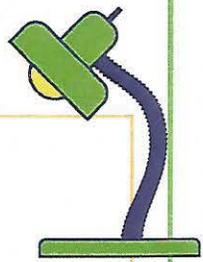
As we grow up and do things that we enjoy, what should we remember?

- We shouldn't really enjoy anything.
- We will always be miserable.
- God will judge everything we do.

get us down? Is life just not worth it? No, not at all.

The Preacher comes to an important conclusion, one we need to listen to carefully: "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). This is the only wise way to live life "under the sun." If we fear God in all we say and do, we'll always be wise. This is what life is all about!



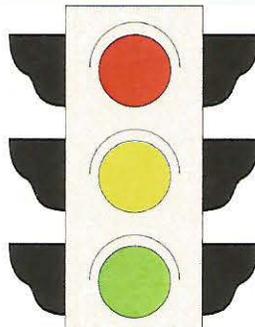
Ecclesiastes 12

What happens to our body when we die?

What happens to our spirit or soul when we die?

When all is said and done, what is the Preacher's conclusion about how to live?

I think life is fair to almost everyone.



Put an X in the light that best describes you.

Red — all the time

Yellow — sometimes

Green — usually not



Describe something you really wanted to do. You worked hard on it, but no one really noticed.

Are you glad you worked so hard?

Why?

Shine a Light on the Bible Facts



Which book of the Old Testament is about rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem?

Right here, right now, write from memory Galatians 5:22-23.

On a map inside the back cover, locate the major regions of Canaan — Negev, Hill Country, Coastal Plain and Transjordan and mark them with a .