



Searching for Life's True Meaning

Everybody in one way or another from antiquity to this very day spends time and energy pondering and searching for the answer to the ageless question of "life's meaning." All of us want our questions answered and our living to have meaning. "Whether Jew or Gentile, male or female, young or old, rich or poor, everyone struggles with questions of their purpose in life and its ultimate fulfillment."¹ In our postmodern world purpose and meaning seems to be elusive and without real substance, indifference and pessimism characterize our culture, and as a result, we seem to be, caught in a never-ending pursuit of significance and fulfillment wondering if life, on earth, has real meaning.

In his book "31 Days to Happiness," a devotional study of Ecclesiastes, Dr. David Jeremiah asks this profound question, "can there be a full life in an empty generation?" I believe this is the question of the ages that all of Mankind seeks to answer, "Is there any real meaning in life on earth, or is everything meaningless?"

While the Book of Ecclesiastes documents the story of King Solomon's quest to answer this question in the context of human experience, I believe his story answers our struggles and concerns about life's meaning. Since Solomon had all of his basic needs met, his status and position afforded him an opportunity and the resources to look for fulfillment in every aspect of physical life, "under the sun." In the end, he concludes that fulfillment and satisfaction limited to life without God "under the sun" is "meaningless."² This record of his experience is our guide through the disappointments and difficulties of this earthly life and they help us find a glimmer of hope upon which we can find fulfillment and meaning in an otherwise empty world.

In this **sixteen-lesson** study of the Book of "Ecclesiastes," my prayer is that God will speak to the earthly challenges of our lives in a fresh new way that will provoke and encourage us to seek life's meaning in a deeper more personal relationship with Him. I invite you to join us for this unique and stimulating examination of the Book of Ecclesiastes.

Pastor C.A. Lundy

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Lesson Plan³

Lesson	Title	Scripture
1	Introduction to Ecclesiastes	
2	The Vanity of Life	Ecclesiastes 1:1-11
3	The Grief of Wisdom	Ecclesiastes 1:12-18
4	The Vanity of Pleasure	Ecclesiastes 2:1-11
5	The End of the Wise and the Fool	Ecclesiastes 2:12-26
6	Everything Has Its Time	Ecclesiastes 3:1- 15
7	When Injustice Seems to Prevail	Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:16
8	Fear God and Keep Your Vows	Ecclesiastes 5:1-20
9	The Vanity of Gain and Honor	Ecclesiastes 6:1-12
10	The Value of Practical Wisdom	Ecclesiastes 7:1-8:1
11	Obey Authorities for God's Sake	Ecclesiastes 8:2-9
12	Death Comes to All	Ecclesiastes 8:10-9:12
13	Wisdom Superior to Folly	Ecclesiastes 9:13-10:20
14	The Value of Diligence	Ecclesiastes 11:1-8
15	Seek God in Early Life	Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8
16	The Whole Duty of Man	Ecclesiastes 12:9-15

Lesson content is as follows:

- Lesson 1** Is an Overview of Ecclesiastes including the author, audience, the scope, and purpose and reoccurring theme.
- Lesson 2** Is an introduction to the study of Ecclesiastes including the journey, the main theme, and question of true meaning.
- Lesson 3-9** Examines Solomon's personal pursuit for life's meaning in worldly wisdom and knowledge.
- Lesson 10-14** Examines the outcome of Solomon's personal pursuit without God's help and without divine revelation.
- Lesson 15** Examines Solomon's admonition and warning about pursuing life apart from God.
- Lesson 16** Examines Solomon's final conclusion of life under the sun.

Each chapter's teaching is on an appropriate passage of scripture from the Book of Ecclesiastes and is followed by questions and comments designed to promote further reflection and application.

^{1, 2} www.insearchoftruth.org

³ Thomas Nelson Study Bible – Ecclesiastes Topical Outlines