

SONG OF SOLOMON AND ECCLESIASTES

Bible Text: Ecclesiastes 1:1-11; 3:1-14; 4:9-12; 11:7-9; 12:9-13; Song of Solomon 5:9—6:3

Lesson Focus: The Wisdom literature passes along insights about real life, love, and how to deal with things that are bound to come our way.

Big Question: Does God know this stuff's in the Bible?

Key Words: ECCLESIASTES, QOHELETH, VANITY, SONG OF SONGS, INTIMACY

BIBLE CONNECTION

-] *Ecclesiastes* (Greek) and *Qoheleth* (Hebrew) both mean “assembly” and are used to refer to the wise teacher of the assembly of God’s people (Ecclesiastes 1:1).
-] Ecclesiastes is a personal memoir of lessons learned over a lifetime (Ecclesiastes 12:9-13).
-] The writer of Ecclesiastes’ grim observation that “all is vanity . . . under the sun” is not so much pessimism as a description of what life is like apart from God (Ecclesiastes 1:1-3; 2:25; 3:9-14).
-] Song of Solomon is also known as Song of Songs and Canticles (Song of Solomon 1:1).
-] Song of Solomon is a love poem, which some have taken as symbolic of the intimacy between God and human beings (Song of Solomon 6:3; 8:6-7).
-] These Wisdom books remind us that cherishing the gifts of the present is important because life is unpredictable and the present will slip away more quickly than we think (Ecclesiastes 11:7-9).

CARTOON CONNECTION

-] How is the Bible like *People* magazine?
-] What sorts of people do we meet in the Bible?
-] What sorts of information or articles do people look for in *People* magazine? In the Bible?



STUDENT BOOK CONNECTION

Here We Stand Student Book page 288: How to Handle Yourself When You Get Angry at God

-] The writer of Ecclesiastes struggles with how life doesn’t always work out the way we want it to. Can you find passages in Ecclesiastes that relate to each of the eight points?

Here We Stand Student Book page 225: The Top 10 Attributes to Look for in a Spouse

-] Open your Bible to Song of Solomon and see how many of these attributes you can find mentioned in the love poem.

LIFE CONNECTION

This week’s challenge will be to live in the moment as Ecclesiastes suggests. Over the next week try to accomplish something in a way that’s free of distraction, intentionally focusing your energy and attention. Perhaps it’s painting a picture or learning new tricks on a skateboard or getting homework done, or maybe it’s just enjoying your friends. Think about what distracts you from being fully in that moment. Take steps to limit those distractions and to experience what God is giving you right then and there.

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Word Search

Find each of these words about wisdom writings in the letter grid.

Z U R L F E L R Z J Z T F M H K I T
Z Y Y T M Z R M P O R F G H T C K X
S T F P Y C A N O S A E S P E E H Y
E T Z U A H D N E P F B H W L C Q A
A A D V O B U J T W I W U Y E C S B
S R E W L I S F R K I L R F H L E G
R R V N A H C R Y G U Y I F O E M C
I P O M N P F E Z T C P A O Q S I D
O Z L S U H W O R N W C Y S W I T S
N M E U R P T H F U K F L Y D A M V
I J B K T P B W N S T J O Y K S H N
E C E E N W V W L G F A R J I T Y N
X Z K I E I T I X W S U R H U E W J
C I O L M S B B U I R M Q E G S N N
Y N U Y T M T C S S Q V F U T H L Y
Y S C C H F G A T D I I U Q H I K L
Z M F B Z H Q P N O S T Q F G G L X
I M A N V O T T J M W P J H Q H K N

QOHELETH

SEASON

ECCLESIASTES

TIME

WISDOM LITERATURE

BELOVED

POETRY