The Book of Ecclesiastes



THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES
Ecclesiastes 1–12
God had given King Solomon wisdom to understand many things. One day Solomon wrote about the meaning of life. His writing became the book of Ecclesiastes.
Solomon had examined and explored all kinds of wisdom. He had gathered wisdom from all over the world. Wisdom is good, but wise people die just like foolish people. Everything seemed to be useless to Solomon.
Solomon tried to gather possessions and have fun. He built houses. He built parks and gardens. He gathered silver and gold. But in the end, it all seemed useless, like he was trying to chase the wind.
Solomon tried working. What if he worked hard and became wealthy? This too did not satisfy Solomon.
Solomon discovered that no matter how much someone has, they always want more. A man may have lots of money but never get to enjoy his money. People should be wise with money, but it does not give meaning to life.
Solomon understood that humans face different seasons of life. Solomon wrote, “There is a time for every activity on earth. There is a time for people to be born and a time for people to die. There is a time to cry and a time to laugh. There is a time to mourn in sadness and a time to dance in happiness, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate.”
God has made each thing beautiful and right in its time. God has put in our hearts a desire to be with Him forever. Everything that God does lasts forever. When we see His works, we will be in awe of Him.
Solomon thought about religious deeds. But he realized that humans cannot do things to impress God. People shouldn’t make big promises to God that they cannot keep. People should obey God and be humble.
Solomon realized that people should enjoy the life God has given them. Life is precious and should be treasured. In the end, Solomon discovered that the most important thing to do—the thing that gives meaning to our lives—is to fear (respect with awe) God and obey His commands.

The Book of Ecclesiastes

Session #12 & May 21, 2023

Younger Children's Activity

Resources Needed: Velcro dots, colored cardstock, preprinted page with daily routines, markers,

Directions:

- **Prior to lesson, have teachers fold cardstock in half length wise to create 2 long columns.**
- **Allow kids to trace to the folded line to create 2 columns.**
- **At the top of the paper label the first column "To Do" and the second column "Done".**
- **Have kids cut out 4 different routine cards of their choosing.**
- **Then allow the kids to attach 4 fuzzy sides of Velcro below the "To Do" column and 4 fuzzy sides of Velcro below the "Done" column.**
- **Then attach one scratchy Velcro to the back of each routine card.**
- **Secure the routine cards to the "To Do" column.**
- **Write the text truth at the bottom of the page. "We should honor and obey God!"**

Extra Activity: None

Older Children's Activity

Resources Needed: Item 52 (one per child), tissue paper (variety of colors), glue sticks, construction paper

Directions:

- **Have kids cut out knot on bold outside lines.**
- **Glue to construction paper.**
- **Tear tissue paper into small pieces and glue tissue paper to each square of the knot.**
- **Encourage them to make their own pattern while gluing tissue paper.**
- **Write the text truth on the paper. "Our purpose is to honor God and obey His commands."**

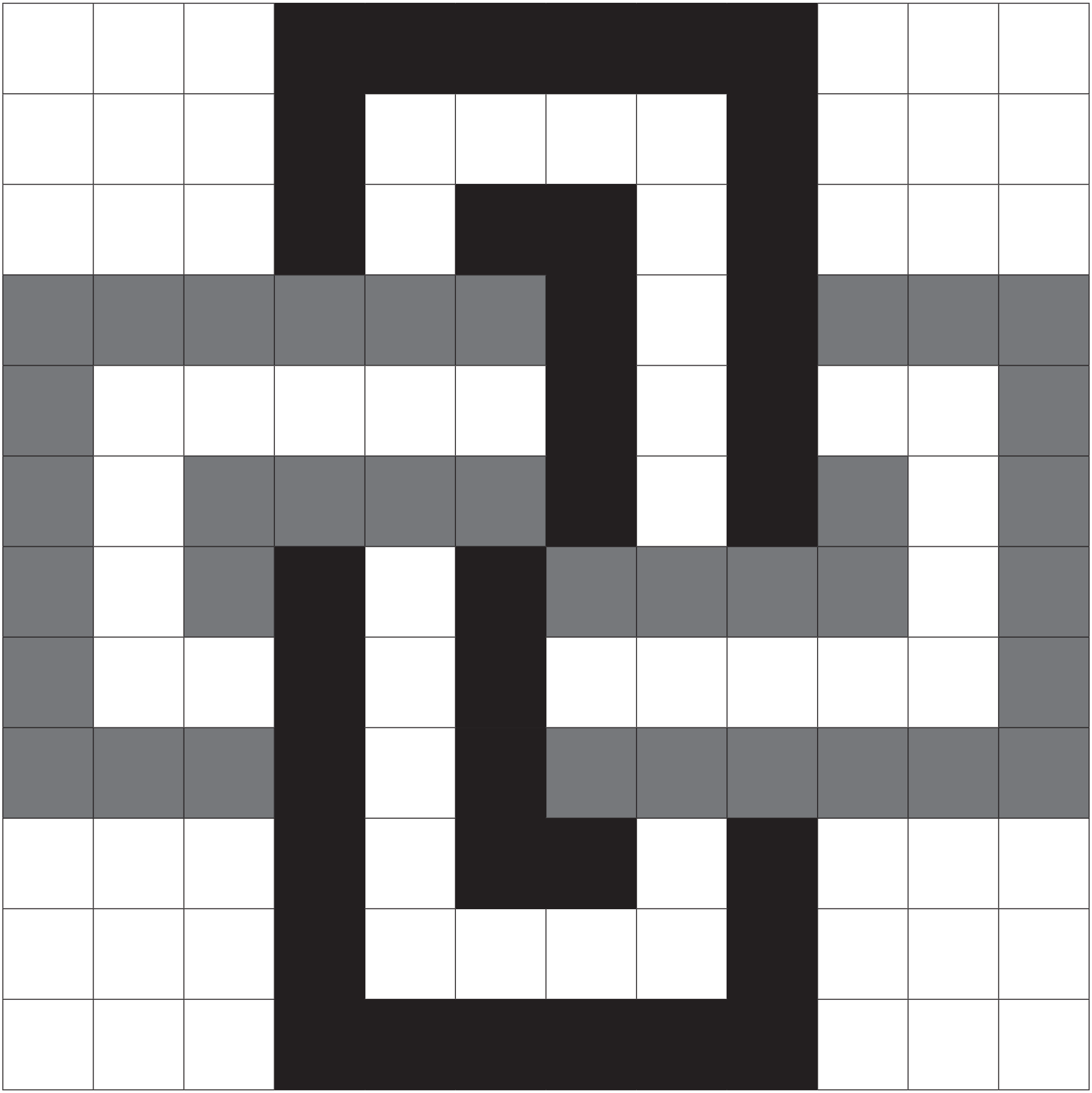
Extra Activity: Knotted Up pg 101



KNOTTED UP

Tools: none

- Direct kids to form a circle while standing.
- Say: "We are going to make a human knot and then try to untangle it! I will need one volunteer to be the director who gives instructions of how to untangle."
- Choose a volunteer to be the director.
- Instruct kids to all put one hand into the center of the circle and to take someone else's hand, not next to them. Repeat with the other hand, but take the hand of a different person this time.
- Say: "Now your job is to undo the knot without breaking your grasps and by following the director's instructions."
- Play as long as time permits or the knot is undone. Provide assistance if needed.
- Say: "That was a difficult task! Having someone standing outside the knot and giving direction was helpful, though. God is always able to see the tangled up knots we sometimes make in our lives. That is why **our purpose is to honor God and obey His commands.** He can keep us from getting knotted up in sin and tangled up in strife if we honor Him and obey Him."



SOLOMON'S KNOT OUTLINE (SESSION 12)
Explore the Bible: Older Kids
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Directions: Print one per child.

THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

OUR PURPOSE IS TO HONOR GOD AND OBEY HIS COMMANDS.

May 21



MOSAIC OF SOLOMON'S KNOT

A mosaic is a picture made from small, colorful pieces of material like stone, tile, shell, or glass.

This is a mosaic of a design called "Solomon's Knot." The design gets its name from a Latin phrase meaning **"SEAL OF SOLOMON,"** and it reminds some people of King Solomon's seal. Look closely. Can you tell where the design begins or ends?

THERE ACTUALLY IS NO VISIBLE BEGINNING OR ENDING!

Because it has no beginning or end, Solomon's Knot represents **ETERNITY.** Solomon wrote in the book of Ecclesiastes about God's eternal nature. Everything God does lasts forever!

A TIME FOR AWE

Solomon wrote when people see or hear about God's mighty acts, they will be in awe (an emotion combining honor, fear, and respect) of God. Think about some of the mighty acts of God recorded in the Bible. **MAKE A LIST** of three events that cause you to be in awe of God, then **DRAW A PICTURE** of one of the events in the space provided.

BIBLE PASSAGE:
ECCLESIASTES 1–12

MEMORY VERSE:
PROVERBS 3:7

FASCINATING FRAGMENTS

In the mid-1900s, ancient scrolls and fragments of scrolls were discovered in jars in caves near the Dead Sea.

Every book of the Old Testament except Esther and Nehemiah has been found among the caves.



These scroll fragments are known as Qoheleth—or Ecclesiastes! Scholars date them to 408 BC — AD 318.



The Hebrew name for the book of Ecclesiastes is *Qoheleth*. It's a title that means "assembler" (like a person who gathers students or listeners) or "collector" (like a person who collects wisdom and wise sayings).

HONOR AND OBEY

Look up each verse in your Bible and read it quietly to yourself. Then pick one verse to read a second time. In the space provided, write a prayer that God will help you honor Him by obeying this verse this week.

EPHESIANS 6:1

PHILIPPIANS 2:14

1 THESSALONIANS 5:15

MATTHEW 28:19-20

A TIME FOR WATCHING WATER

Water watches and clocks were some of the first timekeeping devices that did not rely on the movement of the sun to track time. Instead, they used water!

These stone containers had a small hole in the bottom that allowed water to trickle out at a steady pace. Marks along the inside wall of the containers measured the water to show how much time had passed.



Archaeologists found a water clock in the tomb of Amenhotep I. He died in 1504 BC, making that water clock over 3,527 years old!



THIS LIMESTONE WATER CLOCK IS FROM THE REIGN OF PHARAOH PTOLEMY II, 284–246 BC.