

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **May 8, 2022** Family Theme | **The Purpose of Man**
Study Text | **Ecclesiastes 11:9 – 12:14**

Objective: Children understand what it means to have proper reverence for God and that we should live according to God's Word.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: This lesson concludes the book of Ecclesiastes, written by Solomon around 934 BC. It gives us the universal purpose of having reverence for God and obeying Him.

Bible Basics: Review Romans 6:23 and Philippians 2:10-11 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: Ecclesiastes 11:9 – 12:14

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children or grandchildren about the importance of knowing and walking with God early in life. Teach them what it means to have proper reverence for Him and to live according to His Word.



Key Truth: Believers Live With Judgment and Accountability in Mind (Ecclesiastes 11:9 – 12:8)

There are two extremes in life. One is to focus on its darkness. *Everything is meaningless!* We see this outlook in many of the earlier passages of *Ecclesiastes*. The other danger is to not take life seriously at all: eat, drink, and be merry, and pay no attention to consequences for oneself or others. Solomon's writings help us avoid both errors if we will pay attention. He addressed the young with the advice to enjoy life, but remember that we will give an account for our lives. Live in such a way that one can enjoy life even as one prepares to meet God. Choosing to live joyfully and vigorously while remembering that we will answer to God – that is a recipe for a happy life. Solomon's advice is to give thought and attention to God while we are young, worshiping and serving Him. The time will come when our abilities and faculties will diminish, when we will not be able to do for God and for others what we once did.



Key Truth: Believers Demonstrate Proper Reverence for God and Obey His Word (Ecclesiastes 12:9-14)

Solomon shared his knowledge with his subjects. He worked at discovering and organizing proverbs. He put effort into finding the best way to express wisdom. As a result, what he wrote was trustworthy. The Wisdom literature of the Bible works primarily in two ways. First, like goads, words of wisdom spur us into action, to do the right thing or to move in the right direction. Second, like nails, words of wisdom help to nail things down, keeping us from wandering off on our own away from God. There may be much to be written still, but nothing else to be heard. We await no discovery in art, science, economics, or politics that will invalidate the conclusion of the matter: *fear God and keep His commandments*. Everything else arranges itself around that one central duty. God will have the last word. His judgment or evaluation will prevail. We can do no better than to live the life He has set before us, to fear Him, keep His commandments, and await His final word.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- In what ways do Christians have purpose in life?
- Why is it important to live with judgment and accountability to God in mind?
- What did Solomon say is the duty of all people?
- How could you display reverence for God this week?
- What “commandment” of God do you need to more fully keep?
- **What does it mean to “fear” God?**
- **What are some ways you know Daniel feared God?**
- **How do you keep your purpose focused on God?**

Everyday Extras

For a treat, share some Tootsie Pops — with the Tootsie Roll in the middle of the lollipop. (Or you could have Blow Pops instead with bubble gum in the middle.) Talk about the outside candy shell. It is yummy and enjoyable, but the real reason to eat it is in the middle of the lollipop. That is its purpose! We can have pleasant, enjoyable jobs and relationships with other people, but the real purpose that all of us have is to do what pleases God. We do that by being devoted to Him with love and respect, and by obeying His commandments.

Preschool Highlights for &

Today your child learned Jesus told the disciples that the kingdom of God belongs to children as well as grown-ups. He or she heard verses from the Bible that remind us how much **Jesus Loves Children**. Your child also heard a Webster Family story where Jamie asks his dad some questions about what the Bible says.