

Ecclesiastes does not read like a list of wisdom sayings or a clear story. It reads like someone's diary or journal. It's a search, a wrestling.

The Teacher explores life "under the sun"—what life looks like when you try to make sense of it on your own. He looks at success, pleasure, work, wisdom, and time... and keeps coming back to the same word: *meaningless* (the idea is "vapor," something temporary and hard to grasp).

That can feel unsettling, but it is incredibly honest and relevant.

This week, we are going to practice **Honest Reflection with God**.

Instead of rushing to answers and solutions, we will:

- Name what feels empty.
- Notice what doesn't satisfy.
- Receive what God gives.
- Build our lives on Him.

Grab your notebook and Bible, and let's get started.

Parents: Time with your child is precious. Every season spent is one you can't get back. This week, let us help you treasure where you are and build more awareness of how you are discipling your kids. [Parent Prompt](#)

Week 17 Memory Verse | Ecclesiastes 3:11

Monday, April 27

Read: Ecclesiastes 1:1–11

Reflect: Ecclesiastes opens with an odd statement: "Meaningless! Meaningless! ... Everything is meaningless."

That word can also be translated "vapor." Think of breath on a cold day—real, visible, but gone quickly.

The Teacher is not saying life has no value. He is saying life is **fleeting, unpredictable, and difficult to control.**

“Under the sun” is another key phrase. It is talking about life viewed from a purely human perspective—what we can see, control, and understand on our own.

When we live life focused on those things, it feels like chasing the wind. This is where Ecclesiastes begins for us this week: not with answers, but with honest and real observations.

Act: Write down one area of life that has recently felt frustrating, repetitive, or hard to make sense of. Then write: **“It feels like chasing the wind when...”**

Don’t feel the need to understand it or solve it. Instead, sit with the tension of the reality, choosing to trust God.

Pray: God, help me be honest about what I see and feel. When life doesn’t make sense, keep me from settling for shallow answers. Meet me in the tension and help me to trust You. Amen.

Tuesday, April 28

Read: Ecclesiastes 2:1–11

Reflect: The Teacher runs an experiment... What if I pursue everything people think will satisfy?

- Success
- Possessions
- Experiences
- Pleasure

At the end, his conclusion is sobering: “Nothing was gained... everything was meaningless.” This is not a rejection of enjoyment or work—it is a rejection of searching for ultimate satisfaction and contentment in temporary things.

Ecclesiastes exposes something we all experience: even when we get the earthly things we want, they don't fully deliver. That doesn't necessarily mean those things are bad. *It means they are not enough.* They make for poor life goals and even worse gods.

Act: Finish this sentence honestly:

"I tend to believe that if I just had _____, I would feel satisfied."

Pray: Lord, show me where I've been looking for satisfaction apart from You. Help me see clearly what cannot ultimately fulfill me. Redirect my heart toward what truly lasts and matters. Amen.

Wednesday, April 29

Read: Ecclesiastes 3:1–15

Reflect: This is one of the most well-known passages in Ecclesiastes. "There is a time for everything..."

It's poetic, but also very practical. Life moves through seasons we do not control: birth and death, planting and uprooting, weeping and laughing.

We prefer control, clarity, and predictability. Ecclesiastes reminds us that life just doesn't work that way.

Verse 11 gives a crucial insight: "He has made everything beautiful in its time... He has also set eternity in the human heart."

You long for something beyond the present moment because you were made for more.

Act: Identify your current season:

What season am I in right now?

What am I trying to control that I need to entrust to God?

Write a simple surrender statement:

“God, I release _____ to You.”

Pray: Father, help me trust You with this season of my life. When I feel out of control, remind me that You are not. Teach me to rest in Your timing. Amen.

Thursday, April 30

Read: Ecclesiastes 5:8–20

Reflect: In the middle of all the tension, Ecclesiastes gives a surprising encouragement. Enjoy what God gives.

Receive life as a gift. This is not shallow happiness—it is grounded gratitude.

When we stop trying to find ultimate meaning and satisfaction in the things we don’t have *yet*, we are freed to truly receive what God *is* giving and *has* given to us.

Joy in Ecclesiastes is not found in control or accomplishment. It is found in **receiving**.

This is a shift many people miss. Control says, “I need more.” Gratitude says, “This is enough for today.”

Act: List 3 simple things from today that you can receive as gifts (a meal, a conversation, an activity, provision, rest). Slow down and thank God for each one.

Pray: God, thank You for the simple gifts You have given me today. Help me stop striving for what I don’t have and start receiving what You’ve already provided. Amen.

Friday, May 1**Read:** Ecclesiastes 7:13–18**Reflect:** This passage sounds similar to but also very different from Proverbs, and that's intentional.

Proverbs often presents clear patterns (ie. do this → life goes well).

Ecclesiastes adds nuance. Sometimes life doesn't follow the pattern. The Teacher observes that the righteous can sometimes suffer. The wicked can sometimes prosper.

So, what do we do with that?

We hold wisdom with humility. We pursue wisdom as a pattern, but we don't trust it as a formula for controlling the outcomes of life. This reality actually protects us from two commonly found extremes:

1. Pride ("I did everything right, so I deserve this")
2. Despair ("Nothing matters, so why try?")

Wisdom still matters, but so does trust when life doesn't follow the expected pattern.

Act: Write: **"I expected life to work like..."**Then: **"But God is inviting me to trust Him with..."****Pray:** Lord, keep me from turning wisdom into a system for control. Help me live wisely while trusting You with outcomes I cannot predict. Amen.**Saturday, May 2 – Sunday, May 3****Read:** Ecclesiastes 12:1–14; John 17:3**Reflect:** After all the searching, experimenting, and wrestling, Ecclesiastes lands here:

"Fear God and keep His commandments..."

This is a short and rather abrupt ending, but it isn't small – it's clarifying.

Life is not meaningless when it is anchored in God. Without Him, everything feels like vapor. With Him, even temporary things take on eternal significance.

Jesus gives even more clarity in John 17:3:
“Now this is *eternal* life: that they know You...”

Ecclesiastes clears away illusions so we can see what matters most: not control, achievement, or accumulation.

Knowing God and living in relationship with Him.

Act: Write a simple “life filter” for this season of life based on this week:

What matters most is...
I will give my attention to...
I will let go of...

Keep it short and clear.

Pray: God, thank You for cutting through the clutter of what doesn't matter most. Help me to build my life on You. Help me live with clarity, purpose, and reverence for who You are. Amen.