

Grades 1-3 Lesson Template

Where	Who and What	What you Need
Classroom	Teacher takes attendance Give students a sticker	Paper on table, check off who is here, put onto the clipboard
	OPTION 2: Learning from Leaves Read directions about activity from lesson	Leaves Crayons
Large Group	Large Group Time: Leader is Bryan. He will get you when ready	
Classroom:	Page 122: 1. Read the section about a toy breaking and not being able to use it anymore. But God lives forever. Then discussion questions 1-3	Bible Ask Questions
	We need to be connected to Jesus to have life and purpose. Take your leaves that you made, cut them out, and connect them to the vine. Read John 15:5 "John 15:5 (NIV) reads: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." " Make more leaves as time allows	Scissors Tape Vines
	Worksheet: Follow Jesus	Worksheet
	Summer Scripture Bingo - Hand out to students to bring home for the summer if a student hasn't gotten it already.	Bingo Worksheet



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

| **SAY** “What is the most special item you own? What makes it so special to you?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Follow Jesus” activity page.

| **SAY** “We can follow many different paths in life, but only a life spent trusting in Jesus as Savior and following Him will matter in the end.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: MAKE IT MATTER!

Before the session, wrap tape around the first 5-6 inches of a 8–10 foot-long rope. Guide two leaders to hold the rope while the kids place stickers on the taped portion, trying to cover as much of the tape as possible. Tell kids to not place any stickers outside of the taped portion. Prompt kids to think about how the taped portion of the rope represents our life on earth, and the rest represents our eternity.

| **SAY** “The taped portion of the rope could only hold so many stickers. We could live trying to gain money, get the most friends, make the best grades, or be the best athlete—but none of it lasts. How we live our life now affects how we will spend eternity. Today, we will learn how **SOLOMON TAUGHT THAT LIFE HAS NO MEANING APART FROM GOD.**”

OPTION 2: LEARNING FROM LEAVES



Before the session, gather a variety of different leaves from the trees around your house or church. Provide each kid with a piece of paper and a crayon. Show them the leaves you gathered, and invite them to pick one leaf each. Demonstrate how to cover their leaf with a sheet of paper and color over the paper with a crayon. This will pick up all the grooves and lines, leaving the kids with an imprint of their leaves. Encourage them to hang on to their leaf drawing as a reminder of what they will be learning.

| **SAY** “Leaves grow, change color, and soon die. But God designed the leaves with good purposes. Did you know that the leaves help make food for the tree or plant? They do! They make sugar for the plant. Leaves also produce oxygen for our planet. Big trees with lots of leaves provide shade. And we experience their beauty when they change colors. God controls the seasons and the changing of the leaves, just as He is in control of our lives. Even though the leaves may only be alive for a short time, God has given them purpose. Today, we’ll learn how we find meaning and purpose when we follow Jesus.”



Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles, and display the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Ecclesiastes 1. Share how the book of Ecclesiastes is in the Old Testament poetry and wisdom division. Discuss how Ecclesiastes shares two perspectives: a life lived without God and a life lived trusting God.

Consider pointing out Jerusalem (H5) on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Ecclesiastes 1:8, or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

SAY 🗨️ *Have you ever had a toy, but then it broke and you couldn't play with it anymore? [Allow responses.] Or maybe you've had a toy, but then didn't want to play with it anymore. Toys don't last, and no matter how many toys or treasures we have, we eventually get tired of them and want something new. Everything on earth fades away. But a life lived for God will never fade away. God gives our lives purpose, and those who trust in Jesus will live with Him forever.* 🗨️

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY 🗨️ *How does God give us purpose?* 🗨️

Tell kids that everything God does is for His glory. This means that God is most important and most valuable because He is Creator and King. God made us to bring Him glory. When we live in ways that help others see how wonderful, valuable, and great God is, we bring Him glory. Encourage kids to think about how they are living with purpose to glorify God.

SAY 🗨️ *Why does following Jesus matter?* 🗨️

Tell kids that this world and everything in it will not last, but God is eternal. Jesus came to forgive our sin so we can have life with God forever. But life with God forever starts now. We follow Jesus to show how God has saved us from sin and changed us to love Him most. Following Jesus brings God glory. Encourage kids to remember that others can see how we follow Jesus and want to follow Him too.

SAY 🗨️ *How can you help others live for what matters most?* 🗨️

Prompt kids to think about people they know or see every day who may not know Jesus. Encourage them to share the gospel with those people. Remind kids that we glorify God when we share the gospel with others. Tell kids that we love people when we help them see how Jesus came to save them from sin.

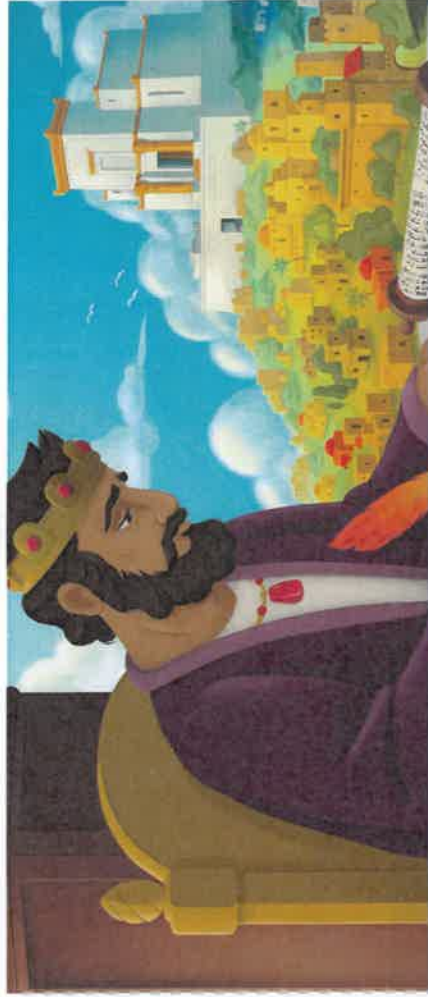
Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





JOURNAL PAGE

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?



Unit 12 • Session 3

SOLOMON THOUGHT ABOUT LIFE

Ecclesiastes 1

WHAT DOES GOD KNOW?

GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE.

Solomon was the richest man in the world. He was famous. He was wiser than any man who had ever lived. He was the most powerful person in all of Israel. Yet, Solomon realized that having all these gifts could never give his life meaning and purpose.

Solomon wrote a book called Ecclesiastes to teach this truth to other people. The book begins this way:

“Everything is absolutely worthless.”

What does a person gain for all his hard work?

A generation of people dies, and another is born.

But the earth is pretty much the same as it has always been.

The sun rises and sets over and over, the same as it always has.

Everything is so tiring, more than anyone wants to say out loud.

No matter what you see, you always want to see more.

No matter what you hear, you always want to hear more.

What you do today, you’ll have to do again tomorrow.

There is nothing new anywhere under the sun.”

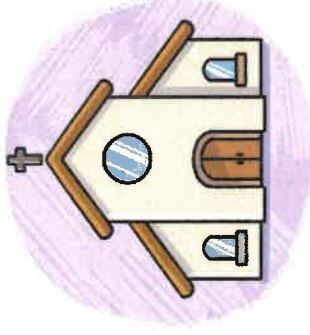
Solomon wanted people to realize that no matter what we do on earth, none of it really matters unless we are living for God’s glory. Knowing and serving God is what truly matters (Eccl. 8:12).

Christ Connection: People spend their lives trying to get riches, power, and fame, but none of it lasts. Only a life spent trusting in Jesus as Savior and following Him will matter in the end. Jesus lived, died, and rose again so we could find purpose in Him and be with God forever.



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR RESOURCES TO USE AT HOME!

What's Important? | Look at each picture and circle the ones that matter to you. Draw a heart around the ones that are most important to you. Then choose one to write about why it's important to you.



Unscramble It
Unscramble the words to complete the Christ Connection from today's Bible story.

People spend their lives trying to get , power, and ,
but none of it lasts. Only a life spent in Jesus as and
following Him will in the end. Jesus lived, died, and rose again
so we could find in Him and be with God .

Follow Jesus

INSTRUCTIONS: Only a life spent trusting in Jesus as Savior and following Him will matter in the end. Find and circle the path that leads to Jesus.



NAME: _____



Solomon Thought about Life

Ecclesiastes 1

STORY POINT:

Solomon taught that life has no meaning apart from God.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

People spend their lives trying to get riches, power, and fame, but none of it lasts. Only a life spent trusting in Jesus as Savior and following Him will matter in the end. Jesus lived, died, and rose again so we could find purpose in Him and be with God forever.

KEY PASSAGE:

Proverbs 3:7

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.



Scan the QR code
for resources to
use at home!