

SOLOMON THOUGHT ABOUT LIFE

ECCLESIASTES 1



CHRIST CONNECTION: This world won't last forever, but Jesus does. Trusting in Jesus is all that matters. Jesus came to save people from sin so we can be with God forever.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: Obey the LORD and do what is right. Proverbs 3:7

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- Solomon was a rich, famous, wise, and powerful king.
- Solomon wanted everyone to know that nothing matters if we don't know God.
- The most important thing is to know God and follow Him.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS: Solomon was a rich, famous, wise, and powerful king. In his life, King Solomon learned important things. In the book of Ecclesiastes (ih klee zih AS teez), he wrote that without God, nothing else matters. People are born, people die, the sun comes up, the sun goes down, the wind blows, and the rivers flow into the sea. Everything is like a big circle that never ends. You always want more, but nothing ever changes. There is nothing new under the sun. Solomon wanted everyone to know that nothing we do matters if we don't know God. The most important thing is to know God and follow Him.



LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Ecclesiastes 1. Show the Bible Story Poster as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb”:

“Obey the LORD, and do what’s right,
Do what’s right, do what’s right.
Obey the LORD, and do what’s right.
That’s what God says to do.”

SAY “ Our key passage phrase says, ‘Obey the LORD and do what’s right.’ Trusting in Jesus and obeying Him is all that matters. ”

2 MOVE AND PAINT THE PHRASE

Write This world won’t last forever, but Jesus does! on paper circles (one per toddler). Slide circles in ziplock bags (one per baby) along with a small amount of blue, green, and white washable paint. Seal the bag, and duct tape the opening to prevent leaks. Encourage babies to “paint” the circle. Say, “This world won’t last forever, but Jesus does!” as the babies paint.

SAY “ The world won’t last forever, but Jesus does! Trusting in Jesus is all that matters. Solomon knew that most important thing is to know God and follow Him, and we can too! ”

3 FOLLOW THE PATH

Tape a path on the floor. Sit babies in leaders’ laps or in horseshoe-shaped pillows beside the path. Provide soft toy cars, and call attention to the path on the floor. Demonstrate how to use the toys to follow the path. For more mobile babies, encourage babies to crawl around as they keep their toy on the path. Cheer on the babies as they stay on and follow the path. Say the third gospel gem as the babies play.

SAY “ Solomon wanted everyone to know that nothing matters if we don’t know God. Can we know God and follow Him? Yes! The most important thing is to know God and follow Him. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s Big Picture Card. Repeat the Christ Connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible Story Poster as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Ecclesiastes 1. Show the Bible Story Poster as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card, and guide toddlers to say it with you. Pray for the toddlers.

2 CREATE A SUN CATCHER

Tape a strip of clear, packing tape sticky side up on the table. Guide toddlers to place red, yellow, and orange tissue paper squares on the tape. Place another piece of tape over the squares. Trim the edges, and punch a hole in the top. Thread precut strips of yarn through the hole to hang or use as a bookmark. Review the story as the toddlers stick their squares.

SAY “Was Solomon wise? Yes! Solomon knew that the sun comes up and goes back down. He knew this world will not last forever, but Jesus does. Trusting in Jesus is all that matters.”

3 DEVELOP STORY MOTIONS

Encourage toddlers to play out the story by helping you create motions for parts of the story. Motion suggestions include strong arms for “powerful king,” point to head for “learned,” fold out your hands in a V for “book,” and so forth. Encourage repetition of the story by asking if toddlers remember the motions as you read through the story multiple times.

SAY “This world won’t last forever, but Jesus does. What is the only thing that matters? Trusting in Jesus! Jesus came to save people from sin.”

4 PLAY WITH PLANETS

Provide a large yellow hoop for the “sun.” Play upbeat worship music on an electronic device. Hold up the sun for the toddlers to see. Explain that when the music stops, the toddlers should gather under the sun. Call out each toddler’s name, and say, “There is nothing new under the sun.” Repeat as interest allows. Retell the Bible story.

SAY “Solomon was a wise king. He knew that the sun rises and goes down, but there is nothing new under the sun. Solomon knew the most important thing is to know God and follow Him.”

5 LISTEN AND MOVE

Gather toddlers, and assign each with a movement: “the sun comes up” (stand with arms in a circle over their heads), “the sun goes down” (stand with arms over their heads, slowly bringing the circle down), “the wind blows” (pretend to blow air), and “rivers flow” (move arms in a wave-like motion). Say each Bible story phrase, and allow toddlers to respond. Challenge the toddlers to listen closely as you speed up or slow down the phrases. Use this time to review the Bible story.

SAY “The sun comes up, the sun goes down, the wind blows, and the rivers flow into the sea. Everything is like a big circle that never ends. But who lasts forever? Yes, Jesus does!”

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1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: COLOR THE CIRCLES AND STARS

Tape a large sheet of paper to cover the table. Draw large circles and a few stars on the paper. Encourage toddlers to use crayons to color in the stars and planets or draw new ones. Review the Bible story as the toddlers color.

SAY “Solomon said that everything is like a big circle that never ends. This world won't last forever, but who does last forever? Yes, Jesus does! Trusting in Jesus is all that matters.”

2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb”:

“Obey the LORD, and do what's right,
Do what's right, do what's right.
Obey the LORD, and do what's right.
That's what God says to do.”

SAY “Our key passage phrase says, ‘Obey the LORD and do what's right.’ Trusting in Jesus and obeying Him is all that matters.”

3 PRESS CIRCLE MOSAICS

Roll out a small amount of air-dry clay for each toddler. Use marker tops, straws, cardboard tubes, or other circle-shaped items for toddlers to press circles into their clay. Write “Everything is like a big circle that never ends” on paper plates. Place “mosaics” on paper plates for toddlers to take home. Review the Bible story as toddlers press their mosaics.

SAY “Who was the king in our story? Yes, Solomon! Solomon said everything is like a big circle that never ends. Solomon knew that the most important thing is to know God and follow Him.”

4 READ BOOKS ABOUT KINGS

Gather books about and images of kings, include the Bible Story Poster. Allow toddlers to examine the pictures. Encourage the toddlers to look at the pictures and tell what makes the kings look rich, famous, powerful, or wise. Review the Bible story, focusing on how you cannot see wisdom and that wisdom comes only from God. Review the Bible story.

SAY “Was Solomon a rich, famous, wise, and powerful king? Yes! In his life, King Solomon learned important things. Solomon wanted everyone to know that nothing we do matters if we don't know God. The most important thing is to know God and follow Him.”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church's security procedures. Give parents today's Big Picture Card to reinforce today's Bible story, Christ Connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.