

YOU CAN'T GET THERE FROM HERE:

How Do I Reach My Goal In The Real World?

TEACHER'S GUIDE

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Our objective is to demonstrate that the path we sometimes take during life will not get us to the end result we desire.

PAGE-BY-PAGE TEACHING GUIDE

Page 18 You can choose to have your students prepare this sheet in advance, or use it as a warm up exercise at the beginning of class. First discuss how old they will be in 25 years. Second, have them share some of their responses with the class. I've found that students typically focus on material things at this point in the exercise. Have some fun with this exercise. Students will often have some interesting responses.

Page 19 Now have students add another 25 years to their age (50 years total from their age right now). Discuss how old they will be. Then, have them list the five most important things that they want to be true of their life at this point. When they are finished, talk over their answers.

At the bottom of the page, have them add 25 more years on to their life (75 years from their age right now). Discuss how old they will be. Then, have them list the five most important things they want to be true of their lives at this point (i.e. still breathing). When they are finished, talk over their answers. Great opportunity for humorous answers at this point. Just go with it.

Page 20 Discuss the reality we will all probably be dead in 75 year. To help them focus on how they want things to turn out for them in the end, have them write their own Epitaph. What is the one thing they want others to say about them when they are gone. I pulled some humorous epitaphs off the internet and shared them with my class to "spice up" this activity. You might give that a try.

Page 21 Talk over the opening paragraphs to demonstrate that the paths we are taking in life do not always get us to the end result we desire. Use the exercise at the bottom to illustrate some of the wrong paths people choose and where they end up. Have the students complete this exercise as a team project, then discuss their findings with the entire group. You will probably run out of time before you have completed this exercise and will need to finish up during the next class period.

Page 22 Have the students work on this sheet before coming to class. Discuss their "re-writes" on Ecclesiastes 12:13-14. The goal here is to get a clear picture of what Solomon is saying, i.e. the most important thing in life is that I respect God enough to do what He says. Pass out index cards and have the students anonymously write their responses to the last question. Share and discuss their responses with the entire group.

The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.

- Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

LIVING IN THE REAL WORLD



**Studies In
Ecclesiastes**

YOUR LIFE...IN 25 YEARS

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE TRUE OF YOUR LIFE?

How old will you be in 25 years? _____

You have five minutes to write down the five most important things that you would like to be true of your life in 25 years.

[1]

[2]

[3]

[4]

[5]

...IN ANOTHER 25 YEARS

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE TRUE OF YOUR LIFE?

Add ANOTHER 25 years on to your age. How old will you be? _____

You have five minutes to write down the five most important things that you want to be true of your life at this point.

[1] _____

[2] _____

[3] _____

[4] _____

[5] _____

NOW ADD 25 MORE...

Add ANOTHER 25 years on to your age. How old will you be? _____

You have five minutes to write down the five most important things that you want to be true of your life at this point.

[1] _____

[2] _____

[3] _____

[4] _____

[5] _____

THE TRUTH

Let's come back to the real world. 75 years from now, it is very likely that we will all be dead. Fact is, death will come even sooner than that for most of us. But when we come to that point when it will be time to put my body in the ground and have a tombstone placed over that spot, what do I want people to say about me and the life I lived?

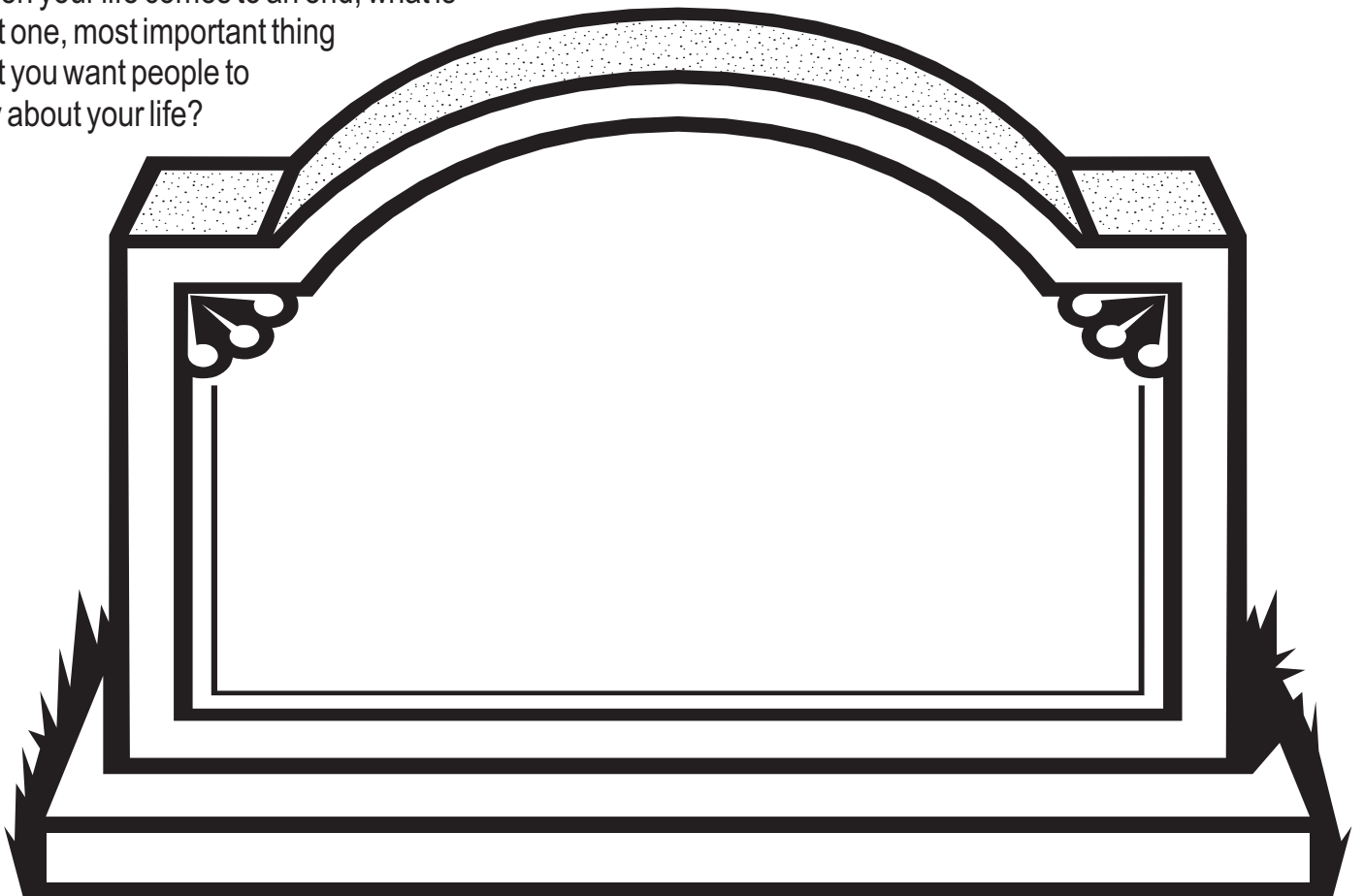
Epitaph

“an inscription on or at a tomb or a grave in memory of the one buried there...
a brief statement commemorating or epitomizing a deceased person...”

(Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary)

WRITE YOUR OWN EPITAPH?

When your life comes to an end, what is that one, most important thing that you want people to say about your life?







YOU CAN'T GET THERE FROM HERE

Another Symptom Of Life In Fantasy Land

Everyone wants to end up in the right situation when they get to the end of life. No one wants their epitaph to read, "I ignored God my whole life and went to hell." However, there are a lot of people spending their lives valuing and seeking the wrong things. They fool themselves into believing that, in spite of their foolish choices, everything will turn out okay in the end.

Once again, Solomon helps us escape fantasy land and return to the real world. Read the first passage and mark down one thing a person might spend his life seeking or doing. Then read the second passage and note how things will end up if I spend my time seeking this thing.

	IF I LIVE FOR...	THE END RESULT WILL BE...
	Ecclesiastes 2:1-3	Ecclesiastes 2:1-3
	Ecclesiastes 2:4-10	Ecclesiastes 2:11
	Ecclesiastes 2:9; 9:15	Ecclesiastes 2:16; 9:15
	Ecclesiastes 1:16	Ecclesiastes 1:17-18



a simple road map

If I want things to turn out right at the end of my life, then I need to be sure I'm doing now what it takes to get there. NO MORE FANTASY LAND. I must live in the real world, recognizing that how my life ends depends on what I do now.

Solomon gave us a simple road map to be sure our life ends up in the right place. If we allow this wisdom to be our compass, life will end up in the right place.

The conclusion, when all has been heard, is:
fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.
For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether
it is good or evil.

- Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Take a moment to re-write this passage in our own words, just to be sure we really understand what he is saying. Write it in a way that even friends in the world can understand what Solomon is saying.

THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION

Give an honest answer to this most important question. I know where I want my life to end up, but can I get there based on what I'm doing now?

____ YES ____ NO

If not, list one specific thing that needs to change:
