

DON'T DO THAT:

Foolish Things People Do To Mess Up Their Lives

TEACHER'S GUIDE

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Our objective is to demonstrate some of the very practical wisdom found in Ecclesiastes that can help us avoid serious mistakes in life.

PAGE-BY-PAGE TEACHING GUIDE

Page 24 Have the students read and prepare this worksheet before coming to class. Talk over that helpless feeling we get when we see two cars about to crash. Discuss how frustrating it is to see friends about to make a serious mistake, but they don't realize it. Then point out that God must surely get frustrated with us. He has provided us with wisdom to help us avoid mistakes, but sometimes we don't listen. Use this to set up a discussion of the practical wisdom found in Ecclesiastes that can help us avoid making serious life mistakes.

Pages 25-26 The students should prepare these sheets before coming to class. When you reach this point in class, break your students into teams and have them discuss their answers for each passage studied. Students should note any additional information they learned from their team discussion. After the teams have had some time to talk this over, go over each verse with the entire group. Each team can share what they have learned with the class. You should spend the rest of this class period working on this first set of verses.

Pages 27-28 This worksheet should be used for a second class period. You can follow the same approach that you used for pages 25-26.

Do not be
eager in your
heart to be
angry, for
anger resides
in the bosom
of fools.

- Ecclesiastes 7:9

**LIVING IN
THE REAL WORLD**



**Studies In
Ecclesiastes**

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN AN ACCIDENT...

Maybe you were watching as two cars were just about to smash into each other. You could see it coming, but there was nothing you could do to stop it.

Choose one word that best describes how you feel at that moment.



The same thing can happen in the lives of people we care about. We can see them about to make a serious mistake that will mess up their lives. But when we try to warn them, they don't listen. Has something like this even happened to you? _____ Choose the one word that best describes how you feel at a moment like that.

As you think about this situation, imagine for a moment what it is like to be God. As a loving Father, He watches from heaven as we live our lives. He has given us His word as a road map to be sure we make wise choices and avoid mistakes along the way. And yet, sometimes we ignore His wisdom and do foolish things. Consider how frustrating it must be for Him to watch us suffer from our mistakes, knowing it could have been avoided if we had just listened to Him.

People who live in the real world recognize that God is a lot smarter than they are. They trust in His wisdom to guide and direct their lives, Proverbs 3:5-8. Their lives are happier because they avoid the pitfalls that make others so miserable. How about our lives? Are we an accident waiting to happen? Or, are we trusting God to lead and guide us?

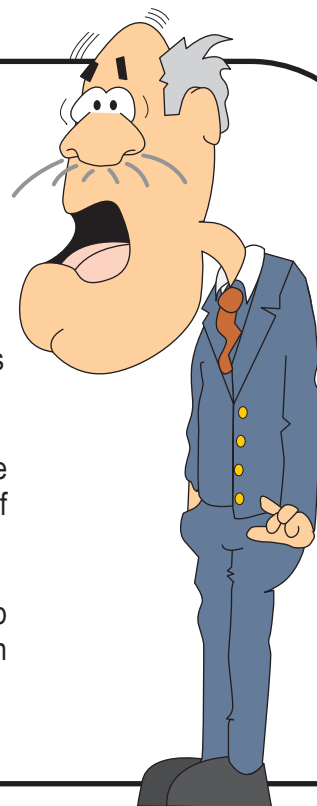
WISDOM...

To Avoid The Foolish Things People Do To Mess Up Their Lives

Ecclesiastes is more than a book to help us understand life's big picture. It also contains some very practical wisdom to help us avoid doing dumb things that will mess up our lives.

On the pages that follow you will find a list of passages from Ecclesiastes. We will be searching these passages for specific things we should avoid if we want to stay out of trouble and avoid making a mess of our lives.

Search each passage carefully to see if you can find some piece of wisdom that will keep you from making a big mistake. If you have trouble with the passage, talk it over with someone else and see what you can find working together. Put some effort into this!



instructions

CLASS [1]

Read each passage cited in the box below. Do your best to find one piece of wisdom that will help you avoid making mistakes that will mess up your life. Take a moment to explain this wisdom in your own words. Then, give one specific way you can use this principle in real life. When you get to class, have the teacher break your group up into several teams. Each team should discuss their responses for each verse. Add any additional insight you learn from your team members. When each team is finished, have them share what they have learned with the entire class.

1

FROM GOD'S WORD: ECCLESIASTES 7:9

IN YOUR WORDS: _____

IN YOUR LIFE: _____

from
your
team

2

FROM GOD'S WORD: ECCLESIASTES 10:12-14

IN YOUR WORDS: _____

IN YOUR LIFE: _____

from
your
team

3

FROM GOD'S WORD: ECCLESIASTES 5:10

IN YOUR WORDS: _____

IN YOUR LIFE: _____

from
your
team

4

FROM GOD'S WORD: ECCLESIASTES 7:7

IN YOUR WORDS: _____

IN YOUR LIFE: _____

from
your
team

5

FROM GOD'S WORD: ECCLESIASTES 10:15-18

IN YOUR WORDS: _____

IN YOUR LIFE: _____

from
your
team

your thoughts

Of this six pieces of wisdom discussed in this class, which did you find to be the most helpful to you personally? Explain why.

instructions

CLASS [2]

Read each passage cited in the box below. Do your best to find one piece of wisdom that will help you avoid making mistakes that will mess up your life. Take a moment to explain this wisdom in your own words. Then, give one specific way you can use this principle in real life. When you get to class, have the teacher break your group up into several teams. Each team should discuss their responses for each verse. Add any additional insight you learn from your team members. When each team is finished, have them share what they have learned with the entire class.

1

FROM GOD'S WORD: ECCLESIASTES 7:21-22

IN YOUR WORDS: _____

IN YOUR LIFE: _____

from
your
team

2

FROM GOD'S WORD: ECCLESIASTES 10:20

IN YOUR WORDS: _____

IN YOUR LIFE: _____

from
your
team

3

FROM GOD'S WORD: ECCLESIASTES 11:9-10

IN YOUR WORDS: _____

IN YOUR LIFE: _____

from
your
team

4

FROM GOD'S WORD: ECCLESIASTES 4:7-8

IN YOUR WORDS: _____

IN YOUR LIFE: _____

from
your
team

your thoughts

Of this six pieces of wisdom discussed in this class, which did you find to be the most helpful to you personally? Explain why.