

THAT CAN'T BE:

Life In The Real World Can Be Strange!

TEACHER'S GUIDE

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Our objective in this lesson will be to tackle some of the strange statements the students encounter in their study of Ecclesiastes. We want them to see how they can discover powerful lessons in these passages that sometimes confuse them.

PAGE-BY-PAGE TEACHING GUIDE

Page 36 Have the students read this sheet before coming to class. Spend 5-10 minute of the class time going back over it and introducing the subject matter for this lesson. Emphasize that, with some effort, we can find some powerful truths within these statements that are sometimes hard to figure out.

Pages 37 Students should begin working on this sheet before coming to class, completing the first three questions on their own. When you reach this point in class, divide the group into teams and have them discuss what they learned about each verse. Each team member should record anything new they learn from their group discussion. Allow 10 minutes for this discussion. Then, have each team share what they concluded with the class. Each student should add anything new they learn from the class discussion. Finally, have everyone record what they think each verse is saying.

Pages 38 This worksheet should be used for a second class period. You can follow the same approach that you used for page 37.

A good name is better than a good ointment, and the day of one's death is better than the day of one's birth.

- Ecclesiastes 7:1

**LIVING IN
THE REAL WORLD**



**Studies In
Ecclesiastes**

THIS IS STRANGE...

“in much wisdom there is much grief, and increasing knowledge results in increasing pain”

[Ecclesiastes 1:18]

“the full stomach of the rich man does not allow him to sleep”

[Ecclesiastes 5:12]

“the day of one's death is better than the day of one's birth”

[Ecclesiastes 7:1]

“It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting”

[Ecclesiastes 7:2]

“Sorrow is better than laughter”

[Ecclesiastes 7:3]

“Do not be excessively righteous and do not be overly wise. Why should you ruin yourself?”

[Ecclesiastes 7:16]

Read much in the book of Ecclesiastes and you will find some strange statements.

CHECK THESE OUT!

At first glance it just seems like these statements cannot be right. For example, how could Solomon ever say, “do not be excessively righteous?”

However, some of the most powerful lessons of this book are hidden in these statements that we sometimes have a hard time figuring out.

Let's be sure we don't miss any of the valuable lessons this book can teach us. Our goal in this session will be to tackle some of these strange statements we and see if we can make some sense of them.

We will take these statements in sets of three. Your job is to spend some time looking these over to see if you can unlock their meaning. This will involve five steps:

- [1] Explain why the verse does not seem to make sense.
- [2] Read the entire context and see what insights you gain.
- [3] Talk over the verse with at least one other person or consult one other source (i.e. Bible commentary) to get some additional insight.
- [4] Discuss your conclusions with your team at the beginning of class and add their input.
- [5] Discuss your findings with the entire class and consider the conclusions reached by others.

Let's tackle the first three...

How

Can This Be?

“in much wisdom
there is
much grief, and
increasing
knowledge results in
increasing pain”

[Ecclesiastes 1:18]

- [1] Explain why this verse may be confusing. _____
- [2] What did you learn from the context? _____

- [3] What did you learn from other sources? _____

- [4] What did you learn from your team? _____

- [5] What did you learn from the class discussion? _____

- [6] What do you think Solomon is saying? _____

“the full stomach of
the rich man does
not allow him to
sleep”

[Ecclesiastes 5:12]

- [1] Explain why this verse may be confusing. _____
- [2] What did you learn from the context? _____

- [3] What did you learn from other sources? _____

- [4] What did you learn from your team? _____

- [5] What did you learn from the class discussion? _____

- [6] What do you think Solomon is saying? _____

“the day of one's
death is better than
the day of one's
birth”

[Ecclesiastes 7:1]

- [1] Explain why this verse may be confusing. _____
- [2] What did you learn from the context? _____

- [3] What did you learn from other sources? _____

- [4] What did you learn from your team? _____

- [5] What did you learn from the class discussion? _____

- [6] What do you think Solomon is saying? _____

How

Can This Be?

“It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting”

[Ecclesiastes 7:2]

- [1] Explain why this verse may be confusing. _____
- [2] What did you learn from the context? _____

- [3] What did you learn from other sources? _____

- [4] What did you learn from your team? _____

- [5] What did you learn from the class discussion? _____

- [6] What do you think Solomon is saying? _____

“Sorrow is better than laughter”

[Ecclesiastes 7:3]

- [1] Explain why this verse may be confusing. _____
- [2] What did you learn from the context? _____

- [3] What did you learn from other sources? _____

- [4] What did you learn from your team? _____

- [5] What did you learn from the class discussion? _____

- [6] What do you think Solomon is saying? _____

“Do not be excessively righteous and do not be overly wise. Why should you ruin yourself?”

[Ecclesiastes 7:16]

- [1] Explain why this verse may be confusing. _____
- [2] What did you learn from the context? _____

- [3] What did you learn from other sources? _____

- [4] What did you learn from your team? _____

- [5] What did you learn from the class discussion? _____

- [6] What do you think Solomon is saying? _____
