

I'M GOING TO DIE:

Facing Life's Most Difficult Reality!

TEACHER'S GUIDE

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Our objective in this lesson will be to teach the students some Bible principles that will help them face confidently the single reality of life that men struggle with most - DEATH.

PAGE-BY-PAGE TEACHING GUIDE

Page 46 Make sure the students complete this page as well as page 47 before coming to class. Begin class by talking over their answers to the difficult questions on this sheet. Use their feedback to gauge how they feel about this uncomfortable subject.

Page 47 The main point of this worksheet is to illustrate how much the subject of death appears in Ecclesiastes. You may also want to emphasize how we sometimes share the frustrations that Solomon expresses in these passages. We're not looking for anything specific in Column B. The goal here is to explore the student's feelings about death as they share the three passages they found most significant.

Page 48 You may find yourself with time to begin going over this worksheet. Begin by pointing out that people often try to escape the reality of death. These case studies illustrate different ways they do that. Take the stories one by one, asking the students to read it first and answer the questions on their own. Then, discuss the story as a class. Be sure to note the last question. Have the students identify which of the attitudes expressed in these stories they are most likely to imitate. You may have them finish this worksheet in your second class period.

Page 49 Have the students complete this worksheet in your second class period. This should be a project completed in class, so there is no advance preparation. Divide the class into teams and have them read the scriptures under Step [1]. As they read each passage, have them list something they learned that helps Christians face death with confidence. Give them 15 minutes to complete this exercises, then discuss their answers as a class. After the discussion, have each student write out their own brief summary explaining how Christians view death (Step 3). Each student should then share their summary with the class.

Finally, wrap up the class by giving each student an index card. On this card they should list five things they would change about their lives if they had only one month left to live. **EMPHASIZE THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE TO PUT THEIR NAMES ON THE CARD.** When everyone is finished, collect the cards and share their responses with the class.

The wise man's eyes are in his head, but the fool walks in darkness. And yet I know that one fate befalls them both.

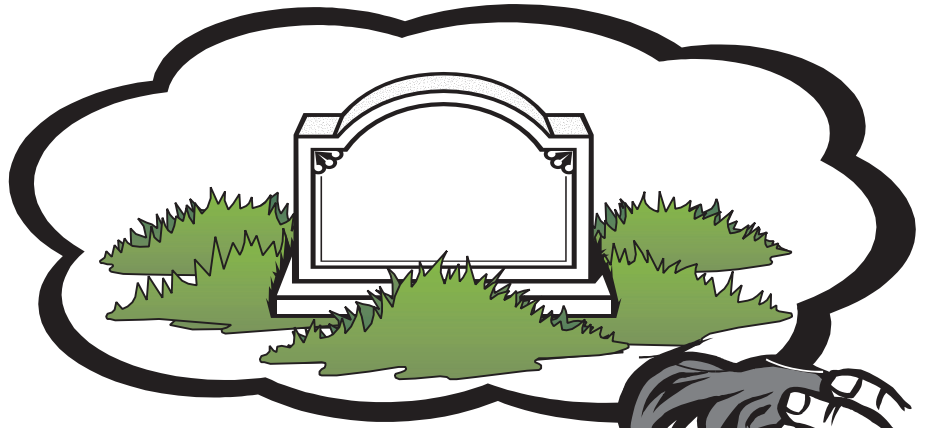
- Ecclesiastes 2:14

LIVING IN THE REAL WORLD



**Studies In
Ecclesiastes**

HOW DO YOU FEEL... ABOUT DYING?



[1] How often do you think about dying?

- Daily Occasionally Rarely Never

Is that too little, too much or just about right? _____

Explain

[2] Which statement best describes your thinking?

- This whole "death thing" is morbid. I try to put it out of my mind completely.
 I'm fascinated by death. I love to think about it...maybe too much.
 I don't think you can really live like you should without considering death.
 Come up with your own: _____

[3] When you do allow yourself to think about dying, what one word best describes how you feel?

My one word would be: _____ . I choose this word because: _____

[4] What one question about death would you most like to have answered? (You can choose a question even if you know there is no answer for it.)

Most people do not like to think about death, especially when they are young. In fact, people find all kinds of ways to avoid facing death and its unavoidable realities. Death is yet another area of life where people choose fantasy land over the real world. Consider the examples below. Explain how each person has failed to accept death and the realities that come with it. Also, note any negative consequences that may result from their refusal to live in the real world when it comes to death.

CASE STUDIES

CASE [1]

Mandy refuses to think about death. She intentionally avoids driving down 12th Street so she will not have to pass the cemetery. When her grandmother died, she refused to attend the funeral. She by-passes the obituaries when she reads the local paper. She does everything she can to keep any thought of death completely out of her mind.

How has Mandy failed to face the realities of death? _____
What negative consequences may result from her decision? (Note Ecclesiastes. 7:1-2) _____

CASE [2]

Gary is fascinated by death. You can tell just by looking at his book covers and notebooks. They are littered with drawings of the Grim Reaper, cemeteries and bizarre images of what he believes the other side looks like. He enjoys listening to music that celebrates death and dying. He even dresses the part, always wearing black to reflect his fascination with death. He tells his friends, "I think dying will be cool; I'm anxious to check out the other side." For him, death has become an obsession.

How has Gary failed to face the realities of death? _____
What negative consequences may result from his decision? _____

CASE [3]

Deena was at peace as she listened to the minister speak at Doug's funeral. Doug had been killed two days earlier in a terrible accident. He was driving drunk and running from the police when he smashed his car into a telephone pole. He was killed instantly. But in spite of this tragic loss, Deena was at peace because she knew Doug was now being comforted by God in heaven.

How has Deena failed to face the realities of death? _____
What negative consequences may result from her decision? _____

CASE [4]

Ron doesn't worry too much about dying. As an atheist, he has no "delusions" about an afterlife, good or bad. He believes that, at death, men slip back into whatever state they experienced before birth. He does not remember that being unpleasant, so he has no fear of dying.

How has Ron failed to face the realities of death? _____
What negative consequences may result from his decision? _____

CASE [5]

Thinking about death makes Joe really uncomfortable. He's a hypocrite. He goes to church every Sunday and "puts in his appearance," but he does not live a life that honors God. He goes to the clubs and drinks with his friends on the weekend. He lies to his parents about it. He rarely studies the Bible or prays. In fact, he knows that if the Lord comes, he will be condemned. Sometimes that bothers Joe as he's trying to go to sleep at night. But he puts his mind at ease by telling himself, "One day, I'm going to straighten things out and serve God."

How has Joe failed to face the realities of death? _____
What negative consequences may result from his decision? _____

THINK ABOUT THIS:

Look over these five stories again and notice the way each person tries to avoid facing death's hard realities. Decide which you are most likely to fall into.

Death is an unavoidable reality that we confront every day. When we see the wreck on the interstate or drive past the cemetery, we are reminded that this is the end for every man. We cannot escape the fact that we are going to die. But instead, with the help of Jesus and His word, we must learn to come to grips with our morality. Fact is, we can't really live a happy life until we learn to deal with death.

GOD HELPS US FACE DEATH

Christians do not have to live their lives scared to death that they are going to die. The Bible contains truths that help us face our mortality with confidence. Read each passage below and then work with your team to find some truth (or truths) that empower God's people to face death without fear. When you have completed the team project, draw on the information you found in these passages to develop your own statement that explains how God's people should view death. Write your own summary in the box below.



STEP 1

READ THESE PASSAGES WITH YOUR TEAM.

- Matthew 25:31-46
- Luke 16:19-31
- Luke 23:43
- II Corinthians 5:6-8
- Philippians 1:21-24
- II Timothy 4:6-8
- I John 4:17-18
- I John 5:13
- Revelation 21:1-7

STEP

2

RECORD WHAT YOU LEARNED FROM YOUR READING.

STEP

3

EXPLAIN HOW CHRISTIANS SEE DEATH.

wrap up

Imagine for a moment that the doctors come to you and tell you that you have one month left to live. List five things you would change about your life over the course of that month. Write your answers on the index card provided by your teacher. You do not need to sign your name.

