

OUR GUIDE BACK TO THE REAL WORLD:

Who Wrote Ecclesiastes?

TEACHER'S GUIDE

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Our goal in this session is to familiarize the students with the "man-behind-the-book." We do not want them just to discover who wrote Ecclesiastes, but to understand the unique perspective this man brings to the profound questions addressed in this book.

PAGE-BY-PAGE TEACHING GUIDE

Page 8 Use this page as a warm up exercise. Have the students work on this project before coming to class. Then, at the beginning of your class session, break the group into teams and have them share with each other what they found. Give them about 3-5 minutes to talk this over, then have each team share one item on their list with the class. Continue going from team to team until all the answers have been given. Authorship clues should include things like: king of Israel (1:1); arranged many proverbs (12:9).

Page 9 Keep your students in their teams to complete this page. Give them 15-20 minutes of class time to create a profile for the author of Ecclesiastes - Solomon. Challenge them to collect as many facts about his background as they can find. Once they have completed this project, have each team share their findings with the class. During this discussion, highlight the fact that Solomon was especially known for his wisdom, wealth and powerful position as king of Israel.

At this point you may be out of time for this class session. You have two options with page 10: (1) you can assign it as homework; or (2) save it for a team project during the next class period.

Page 10 This is the most important part of the session. Begin by dividing your class into teams and have them complete this page. If they worked on this at home in advance, have them share with their teams what they found. When they are finished, have each team share their conclusions with the class. The point to make with this sheet is that Solomon's position (king), wealth and wisdom gave him great advantages in this search for the meaning of life. He was able to experience things that are beyond the reach of the rest of us. Yet, he still concluded that all was vanity. This is important because we often believe that the key to a meaningful life lies somewhere just beyond our reach (i.e. if I could just have Donald Trump's money, etc.). Solomon did have that much money - and more - and still concluded that the meaning of life is not found in great wealth.

The words of
the Preacher,
the son of
David, king in
Jerusalem.

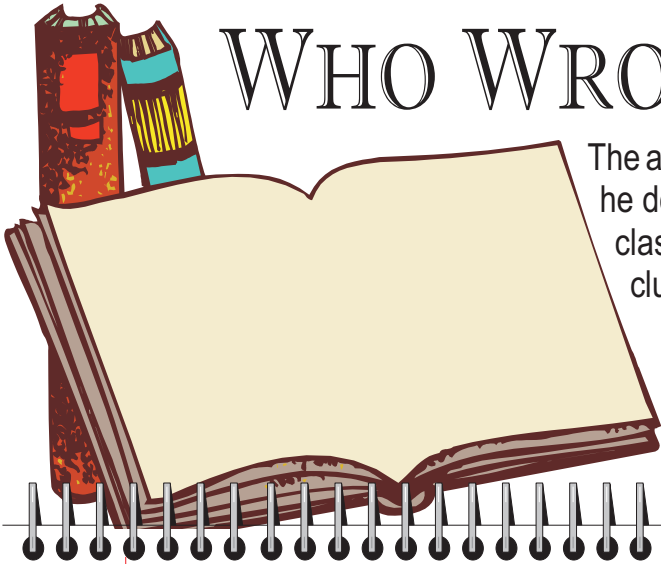
- Ecclesiastes 1:1

LIVING IN THE REAL WORLD



**Studies In
Ecclesiastes**

WHO WROTE ECCLESIASTES?



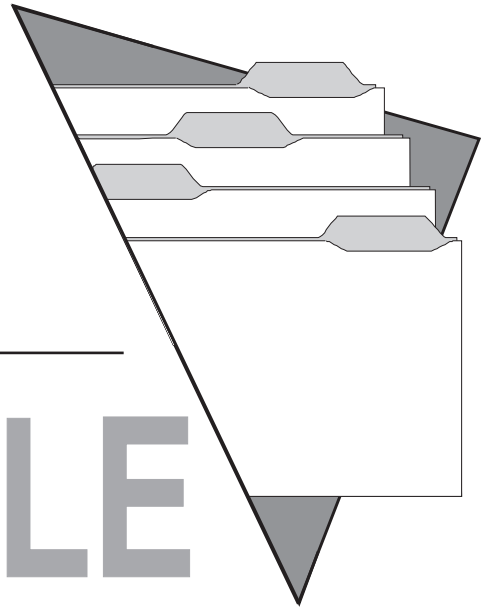
The author of Ecclesiastes is never identified by name. However, he does give us several clues to his identity. Before coming to class, give the book a quick read and see how many authorship clues you can find.



TEAM PROJECT

At the beginning of class, have the teacher break the class into several teams. Take a few minutes to share with your team members what you found. Combine your ideas into one big list that you can share with the rest of the class.

the author's



PROFILE

Based on the clues given in the book, it is difficult to imagine that the author of Ecclesiastes could have been anyone but Solomon. As we study this book over the course of our class, it will help us to know some things about Solomon's background and the perspective he brings to this book.

Working with your team, build a profile of this Old Testament character. Your profile should include his characteristics you consider important, major accomplishments in life, and any significant failures.

To find the information you need, you can draw on your personal knowledge of the man. You may also want to quickly review the following chapters from I Kings that cover his life's story (1-11).

















POSITION & PERSPECTIVE

Examining The Advantages Solomon Brings To This Search

Remember that Solomon helps bring us back to the real world by searching for answers to some of life's toughest questions. However, Solomon had some important advantages over the rest of us as he search for these answers. Under Column (1), read the passages in each box and find one advantage Solomon had as he searched for the meaning of life. Under Column (2), take a moment to explain how this advantage helped him in this search.

ADVANTAGE 1

I Kings 1:28-34
Ecclesiastes 1:1, 12

How would this advantage help Solomon in his quest to find life's true meaning?



ADVANTAGE 2

I Kings 10:14-29
Ecclesiastes 2:4-10

How would this advantage help Solomon in his quest to find life's true meaning?



ADVANTAGE 3

I Kings 3:5-12; 4:29-34
Ecclesiastes 1:13; 2:9b

How would this advantage help Solomon in his quest to find life's true meaning?

