



BRING IT HOME... and HIGHLIGHT it!

WEEK 5

Get out your Bible and highlighter. Use the daily reading guide to apply the Bible to your life by focusing on one book each day. Watch and see God's Word at work!

Ecclesiastes - day one

peace, won for me by Your Son, Jesus Christ, my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Most Bible scholars agree that Ecclesiastes was written by Solomon, when he was older and a lot more cynical about life. The purpose of Ecclesiastes is simple but profound - Life without God is empty. **Let's look up and highlight chapters 2:9-11.**

Even though he seemed to have everything you would ever want in life, Solomon writes there was "nothing to be gained under the sun." We can have all the "stuff" that makes us look and feel good, but if we don't have God - if we don't take seriously what God has written in His Word, nothing makes sense. Can you list any examples of how life can be futile without God in your life? Where might God be trying to point this out in your life? How can Jesus bring some fulfillment?

Now look up and highlight 3:1-9 in Ecclesiastes.

A very famous song used these words - google them to hear "The Byrds" sing their classic hit. As we read this book (which can be very depressing) remember that you are God's child, baptized and dearly loved! God has a plan and a place for you right now. Your future is in His hands, by the grace and favor won for us by His son Jesus Christ. So as you read these sobering words, trust in God's grace for you and learn what God might be saying to you. How might these famous words of Ecclesiastes 3 help you live "in the moment" powered by God's grace?

Prayer - Heavenly Father, teach me to live in the moment, powered by Your mercy and

SONG OF SOLOMON - day two

Of course, King Solomon likely wrote this book. In 1 Kings 4:32 we find out that Solomon wrote more than a thousand songs. This is the only one to survive - Solomon's "Greatest Hit".

As you read this book, it becomes abundantly clear that he is describing the wonderful gift of love God gives between a man and a woman in marriage. All of it - the emotional, the spiritual and the physical is blessed by God. As you read this - don't miss the direct connection that is Christ's love for His people. This is nothing new - Hosea 2:19-20, 11:1 and Isaiah 54:1-8 and Ezekiel 16:6-14 describe Israel as a bride. Elsewhere in the New Testament (Ephesians 5:23, 25, Colossians 1:18 and Revelation 19:6-9) the church is described as the "Bride of Christ". **With this in mind look up and highlight 8:6-7.**

As you read this passage, it's helpful to keep in mind its two levels: As we read this, we remember and celebrate this precious gift God has given us. If you are married, think about and list some of the blessings God has given you because of your spouse. If you are single, pray for those who are married, that God might keep them strong in their love and know, that you yourself are deeply and eternally loved by God!

Prayer - Heavenly Father, we are so thankful for the gift of LOVE. Teach us to love each other as You have loved us. Bless marriages



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and families and keep us strong in the power of Your Love. In Jesus name, Amen.

ISAIAH - day three

Isaiah was a prophet. Prophecy was much like preaching today, proclaiming and applying God's Word. Isaiah called the people to repentance. He told them to get their hearts ready for the coming of the Savior.

Look up and highlight Isaiah 1:18.

What part of your life right now needs to hear this? Where have you faltered in your relationship with God or with others around you? Confess it right now to God and know that you are forgiven. This passage is not only for you, but for someone else in your life. Who might that be? Who in your life needs a little hope right now?

After this section, **look up and highlight these three sections, 7:14, 9:2-7 and 53:4-6. - one right after another.**

These sections of scripture describe the person and work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Think of it - 700 yrs before Jesus was born, they talked about Jesus' saving work. In fact, there are over 300 prophecies in the Old Testament, that point directly to the person and work of Jesus Christ. We don't follow some imaginary tales made up by people. This is the truth - Jesus is real - he lived, died and rose again to pay for our sins. What an awesome God we have!

Prayer - Lord, thank you for the Bible, which points us to the forgiveness of sins we have in Jesus Christ. You are an awesome God, and we thank you for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Amen.

JEREMIAH - day four

Jeremiah was a priest and a prophet, and very unpopular, so much so, that some people in his hometown looked for ways to kill him. Nobody wanted to listen to him because he was telling them to repent. Sin had made their hearts numb. Times were so bad that some people

even burned up their children as part of the worship they offered to their idol called Molech.

Jeremiah called people to repent of their sins. He begged them to return to the true God in faith and obedience. But most of them followed their own path. They were very stubborn. Jeremiah did have a message of hope for the small group of believers who did listen. **Turn to chapter 31:31-34 and highlight the text.**

Much of Jeremiah's world can be seen in our world today. We are stubborn. Some would even say, wicked. As in Jeremiah's day, God's call to turn from these ways is real. Consider your life and your ways. Where do you need to repent of your sins? As you consider them, read out loud the last verse you highlighted. What a great God we have!!!

Prayer - Lord I am not perfect. Daily I fail. I need Your forgiveness. I repent of my sins - all of them. I look to and thank you for Your forgiveness and grace, won for me on the cross. Amen.

LAMENTATIONS - day five

Lamentations was written by Jeremiah, basically an extension of his call to repentance for the people of Judah. This book has a lot of sadness in it. But in the middle of all this sadness is a ray of hope! **Look up and highlight chapter 3:21-24** and read if for yourself.

Sometimes we find ourselves in an absolute mess which has been caused by our sins. Even when all the bad stuff in our lives is our own fault, our Savior still loves us. Read vs 22-23 again - out loud. Every day is a new day in the power of God's love and forgiveness in Jesus Christ. What part of your life do you need to hear this today? Whom in your life might need to hear this powerful message?

Prayer - Heavenly Father. Today is a new day. A new chance, made possible by Your powerful grace and forgiveness. Help me take each step by faith. Bring me peace and happiness powered by Your love. Amen.

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