

## DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God, we should commit to reading Scripture every day. There are questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and one will be given to you. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read.

### **Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup> – Ecclesiastes 1:1-11**

This week we start the book of Ecclesiastes. As Rev. Swoveland pointed out, this was written late in Solomon's life, about 1,000 years before Jesus. It reveals what Solomon observed and learned about life and its many pursuits, revealing much about Solomon's own personal experiences. Let's start with verse 9 today as it sets the tone for the rest of our readings. What is Solomon's main point here (vs. 9b)? Return to verse 1. What is it about the description that Solomon gives that leads us to verse 9? Do you sense the repetitiveness in the writing? Considering this text is 3000 years old and the winds blow, the sun rises and sets, the rivers flow and the oceans are never full... Solomon obviously has a point! What happens in verse 10? We have heard that haven't we? "A new thing." But what does Solomon say about these "new things" (vs. 11)? Why do you think we need a "new thing?" What does that feed in us? What does it reveal about us? What do these verses reveal about God? How do they point to God being "unchanging?" How do they point to Jesus? Jesus is the new thing, the new covenant, as Jeremiah put it. Do we need any more "new things?" Spend time in prayer today thanking God for consistency and asking for the Spirit to help you learn gratitude for it.

### **Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> – Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:11**

Today, Solomon shifts to addressing specific topics that turn out to be meaningless. Read verses 12-18. What is Solomon's first topic? Why do you think wisdom becomes meaningless to Solomon? What is missing from his pursuit of wisdom? In other words, who has Solomon left out of the equation? Read verse 18. Why do you think Solomon experienced this? Now read chapter 2, verses 1-11. What is the next subject that Solomon addresses? How is this relevant to our culture today? How is it relevant to each of us? Make a list of the things Solomon thought would bring him pleasure. Which of these have you pursued? Read verse 11. What was Solomon's discovery? Who had Solomon failed to pursue first and foremost? Do you think that would have made a difference in Solomon's summary statement? What does this reveal to you about God? Where does meaning come from? What does this reveal about us, humanity? We are not very content people, are we? What do you pursue most of all? How does this point to Jesus? Consider that Jesus is wisdom. Jesus did not pursue worldly things. In fact, Jesus didn't own one house that we know of, nor did he possess herds of animals, or any other "things." Yet Jesus rules over all, and pursued God and God's lost sheep continually. Ask yourself, are you like Jesus or Solomon?

### **Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Ecclesiastes 2:12-26 Ash Wednesday Service – 7:00 pm**

Let's start today with the reminder that we have Ash Wednesday Worship tonight, at 7:00 pm. Let's start our Lenten Journey off on the right foot. Today we move on to two other topics Solomon addressed and their results. Read verses 12-17. What is the subject Solomon is discussing? From our study of Proverbs, there has been extensive writing about wise and foolish behaviors. What has Solomon decided regarding the wise and foolish? What are the results that they experience (vss. 14-15)? Do you agree with Solomon? What is more important, wisdom about living forever or pursuing never being forgotten? Interestingly, Solomon was among the wisest and we are still talking about him three thousand years later. Let's read verses 18-23. What is the topic being evaluated here? What does Solomon find frustrating about the whole "work" thing? Do you agree with Solomon? Do you remember that God created us for work? How is work good, not meaningless? What shapes Solomon's thoughts on work being meaningless? What is missing from his analysis? How might this teach us that work is not our all-in-all? Now read verses 24-26. How does Solomon's view begin to adjust more wisely? How simple is it to work and enjoy what we have, because it comes from God? What does this reveal about God? What does this reveal about us and our views on wise living and work? How do these point to Jesus? Consider the teachings that keep telling us we have things backwards. Like the least are truly the first, for example, and the slave is really the greatest. What do you have backwards that might need a flipping to get it right?

### **Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Ecclesiastes 3:1-15**

As we move further into Ecclesiastes, we see a shift in Solomon's thoughts about the life of humans and the way things seem to work. Read verses 1-8. How many of you sung this while you were reading it? What is it we should walk away with from these verses? Consider how all of this happens at one time or another in your own life. How does Solomon sum all this up (vss. 9-13)? Do you see a corrective course? Not everything is meaningless but beautiful in its own time. Even hate, war, grief, they all serve a purpose. Finally, Solomon addresses God's part in all of this. What does Solomon say (vss. 14-15)? Do you agree with Solomon? Does God "make" the same things happen over and over or does God "allow" things to happen over and over? What does this section reveal to you about God? What does it reveal to you about us as humans? How does it point to Jesus?

### **Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> – Ecclesiastes 3:16 – 4:6**

We had a break yesterday from the topics being covered that Solomon had analyzed. But we return to that format today. Read the text for today. What is the topic covered? How is Solomon's analysis applicable to things in the world today? Is our court system always fair? To what does Solomon compare humans? Do you agree? He is not wrong. We live and die, don't we? In verse 21, what piece of information does Solomon not have? Moving to Chapter 4, what aspect of injustice does Solomon address (vss. 1-3)? Is this the understanding of oppression today? We close with the last topic, found in verses 4-6. What motivates people towards success? Is this a God-driven or worldly desire? What makes it meaningless to Solomon (vs. 5-6)? Do you agree? What does this reveal to you about God? What does it reveal to you about humanity? Doesn't God see you as better than the animals (Matthew 6:26-30)? How does this point to Jesus? Consider it is Jesus' teaching in Matthew 6. Spend some time today in prayer, asking God to open your eyes to the truths and wisdom of Solomon's writings today. We will now pause for Lent and resume Ecclesiastes when we return after Easter.

### **Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> - For tomorrow, please read Luke 18:1-8.**