



# Sunday School Study Plan for September 2024

with Mr. Mackie Hill and Deacon Altheda Winford

Five Weeks (September 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29)  
Topic: Study in the Book of Ecclesiastes

## Week 1: Apart from God, Life is Meaningless

Background Reading:

- Ecclesiastes 1 - 2

Guiding Questions:

1. Who do you believe write the Book of Ecclesiastes?
2. Why are we never satisfied?
3. Why are we never content?
4. Why is striving for Wisdom meaningless?
5. Should we strive for pleasure?
6. Should we strive for great accomplishments?
7. Is it meaningless to strive for hard work? Explain.
8. What was Solomon's conclusion?

## Week 2: God Predetermines the Events of Life

Background Reading:

- Ecclesiastes 3, 5

Guiding Questions:

1. Describe the events of life outlined in Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8
2. How does God predetermine the conditions of life?
3. What are the inefficiencies of human religion?
4. From where does wealth come?

## Week 3: Wisdom and Foolishness Contrasted

Background Reading:

- Ecclesiastes 6 - 7

Guiding Questions:

1. Is there any satisfaction in wealth? Explain.
2. Is there any satisfaction in labor? Explain.
3. Is there any satisfaction in the future? Explain.
4. How do wisdom and Foolishness contrast?
5. What is the wisdom of moderation?
6. What is the strength of wisdom?

## Week 4: The Inability to Understand All God's Doings

Background Reading:

- Ecclesiastes 8- 9

Guiding Questions:

1. What are some examples from Ecclesiastes 8-9 that highlight the limitations of human understanding regarding God's plans and actions?
2. In Ecclesiastes 8:14-17, the author speaks about the seeming contradictions in life, such as the righteous suffering and the wicked prospering. How do these verses reflect our struggles with understanding God's justice?
3. Ecclesiastes 9:1-6 discusses the common fate of death that awaits everyone, regardless of their righteousness or wickedness. What does this passage suggest about the unpredictability of life and God's control over it?
4. How does the concept of 'living by faith' come into play when we acknowledge that we cannot understand all of God's actions or plans?

[If a Week 5 includes Sunday School sessions, plan to discuss Ecclesiastes as a review on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday. TBD.]

**2 Timothy 2:15**, KJV: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." **2 Timothy 2:15**, NASB: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."

### WEEKLY HOMEWORK

1. READ TEXT FOR THE WEEK
2. USE A STUDY APPROACH TO RE-READ TEXT FOR PERSONAL AND BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS
  - A. CONSIDER 3 INSIGHTS, 2 SIGNIFICANT VERSES, AND ONE KEY WORD FOR DISCUSSION
  - B. USE BIBLICAL COMMENTARIES ON TEXT TO GIVE CONTEXT OR BACKGROUND
  - C. REVIEW VARIED TRANSLATIONS TO COMPARE MEANINGS
3. CONNECT LESSONS TO SERMONS FROM PAST DECADES AND LAST SEVERAL MONTHS