

Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2010

Through the Old Testament in Two Years

Part Two



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

A Time for Everything

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Memory Verse:

From one man he made all the people of the world. Now they live all over the earth. He decided exactly when they should live. And he decided exactly where they should live.
(Acts 17:26 NIV)

Goals

1. Understand that everything has a time.
2. Recognize that we live and die as part of God's plan.
3. Learn that there is a time to plant and build.
4. Understand that emotions are given to us by God.

Last time we learned about Solomon's writings in Proverbs. The Bible tells us how God wants us to live. We are to follow God's commands. It is important to know and follow God's commands. We are to work hard. The Bible tells us not to gossip and encourages us to walk away from gossip. Where wives are concerned, God says a good wife should be praised.

Read the Bible

READ: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Begin with Prayer

In Ecclesiastes, a book also written by Solomon, it says that "there is a time for everything." Solomon says that everything has a season. God has created the night to follow the day and the summer to follow the spring. Everything has a time. (Ecclesiastes 3:1 NIV)

In the second verse, Solomon declares that there is a time to be born and a time to die. It is something that God planned. He created us in such a way that we have a "birth day" and then eventually there will come a time when we our physical body will die. In the New Testament, Paul says, "He decided exactly where they should live." (Acts 17:26 NIV) The writer of Hebrews says, "People have to die once. After that, God will judge them." (Hebrews 9:27 NIV)

In verse 3, Solomon states that there is a "time to plant." People who like to grow plants know that there is a specific time to plant things. Solomon continues saying that there is a time to pull up what is planted. A plant that does not produce fruit may be diseased. Some plants require pruning. Sometimes plants have to be plucked. (Ecclesiastes 3:2)

There is a time to tear down and... build up. Sometimes children like to play with Lego's. They try to build the tallest tower they can by stacking the Lego's. Usually, the Lego's start to fall and they have to tear down their tower before they can start building again. (Ecclesiastes 3:3)

Then Solomon affirms that there is a "time to cry." "Have you ever been so happy you cried? Or have you ever been so tired that you cried? We don't just cry when we are sad. (Ecclesiastes 3:4)

There is also "a time to laugh." Laughter is good for us. "A happy heart makes a face look cheerful." (Proverbs 15:13 NIV) Laughter helps make us healthy. (Look on the internet for ways laughter benefits our health.)

Ecclesiastes — Bible Facts

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|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. There is a time for everything.3. There is a time to be sad and mourn. | <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. There is a time to be born.4. There is a time to laugh. |
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Solomon affirms there's a "time to be sad." Emotions are something that God has given us. It is natural to feel sadness when things are difficult. Then Solomon says there is a "time to be happy." James says, "Be full of sorrow. Cry and sob. Change your laughter to crying. Change your joy to sadness." (James 4:9 NIV)

In verse 5, Solomon states that there is a time to hug and a time not to hug. It makes a difference when we are physically touched by another human being. (Look on the internet for the health benefits of physical touch.)

Next, Solomon asserts that there is a time to try to get money and a time to count your losses. Today people are trying to hold on to money because of the economic crisis that is being experienced. People want to get the best product for the best price.

In addition there is a time to keep and a time to throw away. Some people are very good at getting rid of things they no longer use or need. (Ecclesiastes 3:6) There's a time to mend and a time to tear. If you have ever seen a seamstress at work you see the skill of the person to fix things. Some older women remember that their grandmothers used to take old clothing and make blankets out of the cloth when clothes could not be mended. (Ecclesiastes 3:7)

Solomon, who was the wisest man in his day, declared that there is a time to be silent. (I Kings 3:5-14; 4:29-34) The Bible affirms, "Be still and know that I am God." It is important to learn to be still. (Psalm 46:10) Then Solomon says that there is a time to speak. Believers in Christ should be careful as they speak or as they remain silent so that God may be glorified in their lives. (Ecclesiastes 3:7)

Review

- 1. What does Ecclesiastes say? (There is a time for everything.)**
- 2. What does Ecclesiastes say about our birthday? (There is a time to be born.)**
- 3. What does Ecclesiastes say about being sad? (There is a time to be sad and mourn.)**
- 4. What does Ecclesiastes say about laughter? (There is a time to laugh.)**

Do You Know Jesus?

Jesus came to die for our sins. Jesus rose from the dead. He is alive. Jesus provided a way for us to have a personal relationship with God. (Romans 10:9-10) If you would like to know more, talk to your teacher about it.

Prayer Time

- 1. Take a moment to listen to God.**
- 2. Thank God for creating us.**
- 3. Ask God to help you know when to do things the way He wants us to do them.**
- 4. Pray for friends and family members who need to know when to do things the way God wants us to do them.**

Application

Ecclesiastes declares that everything has a time. We live and die as part of God's plan. There is a time to plant and build. [God] decided exactly when [we] should live. And [God] decided exactly where we should live. (Acts 17:26) He is the creator of all things. He has given us the emotions we experience. He wants us to live for Him.

Planning for Next Week

Isaiah's Commission — Isaiah 6:1-8

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Teachers: Bring cups, soil, and seeds. Allow the children to plant something.

In Ecclesiastes, a book also written by Solomon, it says that “there is a time for everything.”

In the second verse, Solomon declares that there is a time to be born and a time to die.

In verse 3, Solomon states that there is a “time to plant.” People who like to grow plants know that there is a specific time to plant things. Solomon continues saying that there is a time to pull up what is planted. A plant that does not produce fruit may be diseased. Some plants require pruning. Sometimes plants have to be plucked. (Ecclesiastes 3:3)

There is a time to tear down and... build up. Sometimes children like to play with Lego’s. They try to build the tallest tower they can by stacking the Lego’s. Usually, the Lego’s start to fall and they have to tear down their tower before they can start building again.

Then Solomon affirms that there is a “time to cry. “ Have you ever been so happy you cried? Or have you ever been so tired that you cried? We don’t just cry when we are sad. (Ecclesiastes 3:5)

There is also “a time to laugh.” Laughter is good for us. “A happy heart makes a face look cheerful.” (Proverbs 15:13 NIV) Laughter helps make us healthy. (Look on the internet for ways laughter benefits our health.)

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for creating us.
3. Ask God to help you know when to do things the way He wants us to do them.

Memory verse for younger children

[God] decided exactly when [we] should live. (Acts 17:26)

Learning Activities

- **Memory verse activity** — Create a spin board using construction paper. Add numbers for points. Use the spin board to help the children learn the verse.

- **Test your memory** — Cut out squares using construction paper. Write verses or key phrases from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. Make a quilt out of the squares. Glue the squares on a large piece of construction paper.

- **Taste activity** — Bring apples or oranges for a snack.

Bring fruit cups for a snack.

- **Think about it** — Ecclesiastes says that there is a time to laugh. Look on the internet for the health benefits of laughter.

Ecclesiastes says that there is a time to hug. Look on the internet for the health benefits of physical touch.

- **Touch activity** — Bring cups, soil, and seeds. Allow the children to plant a seed.

Bring Lego's and let the children build something.

Ecclesiastes says that there is a time to be born. Have a birthday party. Bring a birthday cake, etc.

Make items that represent the seasons. (Rain sticks or flowers for spring, snowflakes for winter, etc.)

- **Run and play** — Play "Simon Says," but ask the children to express emotions.

Ask the children to play a freeze game. Someone will tell them how to freeze (on one leg, hand on hip, etc.)

- **Listen** — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God wants us to live for Him.

- **Sing** — Sing "Live for Jesus," "Turn, Turn, Turn," by the Byrds, or another song related to the story.

- **Reach out** — During class, pray (by name) for kids who did not come today. Ask the children to go with you to deliver the handouts to those who were absent. Take spin boards for them. Pray with the children who were absent. Encourage them to read the story in the Bible.

Memory Verse

[God] decided
exactly when
[we] should live.
And [God] decided
exactly where
we should live.

Acts 17:26

Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

There

is a

time to

laugh

Word Search

S M P K R P B F F A T S D S A D O R
E E R K S N E R A H K R E W P T F D
S B R M S D A E A C A T M S G R L E
F E C N E L I S K N S S H N I E T M
R R H R T O P A B A F E I E A A O D
E K P I S L O G I F W H N N N O O E
V E P D A G S S L M T D U R I O L P
O M M N P O E P E Y O F O G T Y R G
E B T O L L B R R D A B E H G U A L
P M R O C H U E Y A L T R P G E R S
C T I C W I V C D R O I S D O G K H
S O E T E E T I K T C C U R P R C C
N S S D S D L W B C E L B B S N E S

ECCLESIASTES

PLANT

BUILD

HUG

EVERYTHING

PLUCK

LAUGH

KEEP

TIME

BORN

CRY

SILENCE

Word Search

S M P K R P B F F A T S D S A D O R
 E E R K S N E R A H K R E W P T F D
 S B R M S D A E A C A T M S G R L E
 F E C N E L I S K N S S H N I E T M
 R R H R T O P A B A F E I E A A O D
 E K P I S L O G I F W H N N N O O E
 V E P D A G S S L M T D U R I O L P
 O M M N P O E P E Y O F O G T Y R G
 E B T O L L B R R D A B E H G U A L
 P M R O C H U E Y A L T R P G E R S
 C T I C W I V C D R O I S D O G K H
 S O E T E E T I K T C C U R P R C C
 N S S D S D L W B C E L B B S N E S

ECCLESIASTES

EVERYTHING

TIME

PLANT

PLUCK

BORN

BUILD

LAUGH

CRY

HUG

KEEP

SILENCE

Word Search

D M P R N F K H D F L J
H S R F T B L M P H V Z
L A U G H W S T F N D F
B U I L D R P F C B R D
T B Y F B F S T G K P D
J C S W M P W F O P N B
H R K G R N P W F C R Y
P S T B C F B M B O R N
V B F R S W P K F B M D
W A S F H U G K N G V T
S B P L A N T F D B M D
P R F V B R B S L F R D

PLANT

HUG

BORN

BUILD

LAUGH

CRY

Word Search

D	M	P	R	N	F	K	H	D	F	L	J
H	S	R	F	T	B	L	M	P	H	V	Z
L	A	U	G	H	W	S	T	F	N	D	F
B	U	I	L	D	R	P	F	C	B	R	D
T	B	Y	F	B	F	S	T	G	K	P	D
J	C	S	W	M	P	W	F	O	P	N	B
H	R	K	G	R	N	P	W	F	C	R	Y
P	S	T	B	C	F	B	M	B	O	R	N
V	B	F	R	S	W	P	K	F	B	M	D
W	A	S	F	H	U	G	K	N	G	V	T
S	B	P	L	A	N	T	F	D	B	M	D
P	R	F	V	B	R	B	S	L	F	R	D

PLANT

HUG

BORN

BUILD

LAUGH

CRY

Anagram

NOE

MNA

AMED

PPOLEE

ROLWD

ELVI

TEHAR

YXCETAL

HEWN

Anagram

ONE

MAN

MADE

PEOPLE

WORLD

LIVE

EARTH

EXACTLY

WHEN