



Teen Edition Study Guide: Stuff Will Make You Happy?

Ecclesiastes 5:8-20

Theme: Understanding the fleeting nature of wealth and success through Solomon's wisdom.

Opening Reflection:

Before reading the passage, consider this:

- Have you ever wanted to be rich or famous? Why?
 - What do you think wealth and success can give a person?
 - Have you ever seen someone who has everything but still seems unhappy?
-

Scripture Reading:

Read Ecclesiastes 5:8-20 together.

Discussion Questions:

1. Injustice and Oppression (Verses 8-9)

- Solomon talks about oppression and injustice in government. Why do you think corruption and injustice exist, even in the most advanced societies?
- How does this passage challenge the idea that wealth and power can fix the world's problems?
- As Christians, how should we respond when we see injustice in the world? (Consider Micah 6:8)

2. The Insatiable Desire for Wealth (Verses 10-12)

- Verse 10 says, "*He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver.*" Why do you think money never truly satisfies people?
- Can you think of examples (celebrities, athletes, historical figures) who had great wealth but were still unfulfilled?
- How does 1 Timothy 6:6-10 relate to this passage?

3. The Burden of Riches (Verses 13-17)

- Verse 13 warns about riches being "*kept for the owners thereof to their hurt.*" How can wealth actually be harmful rather than helpful?
- What are some dangers of putting too much trust in money? (Consider Matthew 6:19-21)



February 26, 2025

- Verse 15 reminds us that we enter and leave this world with nothing. How should this truth shape our perspective on life and material things?

4. True Contentment (Verses 18-20)

- According to Solomon, what is the best way to live life (verses 18-20)?
- How does this compare with the world's view of success and happiness?
- Verse 20 says, "*For he shall not much remember the days of his life; because God answereth him in the joy of his heart.*" What do you think this means?
- How can we find true joy in life that is not based on wealth or success?

Application & Challenge:

- This week, take time to reflect on what you value most. Are you seeking contentment in material things, or are you trusting God for joy?
- Read **Matthew 6:25-34** and think about how Jesus calls us to trust God instead of worrying about wealth and possessions.
- Write down one practical way you can shift your focus from worldly success to godly contentment.