April 8, 2013
Sunday School Lesson

LENNAS THIS QUARTER
1) 02 June 2013.........................Job 01-02...............Is This Really Happening to Me?
2) 09 June.........................Job 03-14..........................Was It My Fault?
3) 16 June.........................Job 15-21..........................Who Said Life Would Be Fair?
4) 23 June.........................Job 22-28..........................Whom Can I Trust?
5) 30 June.........................Job 29-31..........................What Can I Do Now?
6) 07 July.........................Job 32-37..........................Am I On The Right Path?
7) 14 July.........................Job 38-42..........................What Am I Supposed to Learn?
8) 21 July.........................Ecclesiastes 01-02...............Can I Find Meaning?
9) 28 July.........................Ecclesiastes 03-05...............Why Do I Feel Empty?
10) 04 August .....................Ecclesiastes 05-06...............Am I Headed For Failure?
11) 11 August .....................Ecclesiastes 07-08...............Can I Keep On Going?
12) 18 August .....................Ecclesiastes 09-10...............Is There Any Hope?
13) 25 August .....................Ecclesiastes 11-12...............What is the Answer?

INTRODUCTION
- Solomon continues his proverbial approach and gives a lot of 1-liner quips on wise living
- And he comes across as being very cynical – it seems better to be dead than to live a wasted life
- BUT, we have to remember Solomon wrote this from a perspective of a life that is lived without God

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| Ecc 5:8-9 | Government has a Good Side  
- v8. Even in Solomon’s day, when Israel was at their peak, there was still corruption within the government  
- v9. YET, government, which “cultivates (or reaps) from the land” – also benefits the land through establishing food distribution. Other good government practices, which promote commerce and the economy, include:  
  1. Protection of the weak (but not care of the weak)  
  2. Fair play, fair treatment, and fair pricing  
  3. Good infrastructure (common roads & networks)  
- How should we contend with government corruption and bad laws in our day? – Fight, Flight, or Vote? |
| 5:10-17 | Being Poor has a Good Side  
- The poor in life do not have these worries...  
  - v10. Constantly chasing the next big thing  
  - v11. People constantly asking you for money  
  - v12a. Restless nights worrying how to keep stuff  
  - v12b. Restless nights from eating too much too late  
  - v13. Hoarding so much clutter – need more storage  
  - v14. Worry about investments going wrong  
  - vv15-16. Worry about end of life stuff  
  - v17. Health issues derived from worry and anxiety |
| 5:18-20 | Honest Hard Work has a Good Side  
- vv18-19. A Man’s Reward is to enjoy his labor. It is a gift from God. How should we enjoy this gift?  
- In shameless partying with ‘wine, women & song’?  
- In a more restrained fashion taking in beautiful places, visiting loved ones, sharing one’s company?  
- v20. What is this passage trying to convey?  
  - NLT “God keeps such people so busy enjoying life that they take no time to brood over the past”  
  - HCSB “He does not consider the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy of heart”  
- It does seem that our rough and tumble past is often put on the back burner when we enjoy a good day  
- …and my wife tells me women often forget their labor pains when they see the product of their labor  
- …and Jesus endured the cross for the joy that was set before Him (His joy was knowing us who would come to Him through His sacrifice)......Hebrews 12:2 |

Next Week: Ecclesiastes 7-8. Twice in chapters 7 and 8 Solomon highlights the disparity of life – the wicked are blessed and the righteous are cursed at times – YET, the righteous can still rejoice because God will work things out for the benefit of the down-trodden