GENESIS TO REVELATION | POETRY AND WISDOM

A Time for Each Season

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13



YOUR BIBLE READING

Changing times can call for different honest responses and careful attention to daily good.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

A Poem of Changing Times

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13



Ecclesiastes includes a poem about times and seasons in human life. It begins by saying there is a time for every purpose under heaven. The lines place contrasting experiences beside each other. This is wisdom poetry, not a timetable telling a particular child what will happen tomorrow. By moving through many different times, it asks readers to recognize that life cannot always remain in the same season or answer one demand forever.

The poem names being born and dying, planting and pulling up what has been planted. Growth and endings both belong to the picture. A garden offers an ordinary example of work that changes with time: seeds are planted, plants grow, and eventually a crop is gathered or cleared. The poem does not turn those changes into proof that someone did wrong. It notices the wider pattern of beginnings, care, and endings in life.

Other lines speak of tearing down and building, weeping and laughing, mourning and dancing. Some moments call for joy, while others call for grief. The poem allows these different responses to appear without demanding that one feeling last forever. It also names embracing and refraining from embracing, seeking and losing, keeping and letting go. The repeated pairs give the reader a rhythm while the experiences themselves change from line to line.

The poem continues with tearing and sewing, silence and speech, love and hate, war and peace. It also names killing and healing, a serious contrast within its view of human experience. Listing an action does not make it an instruction for a child to perform it. This is not permission to hurt someone because a poem mentions violence. It is a broad picture of a world containing painful conflict as well as repair and peaceful life.

Remember: I do not have to understand everything to notice a good gift or do a caring action.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

Enjoying Good Without Knowing Everything

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13



After the poem, the writer asks what workers gain from all their effort and considers the burdens human beings carry. The question prevents the list of seasons from becoming a simple slogan that explains everything. People work, plan, and wonder about the results. The reading gives room for that wondering. It does not say that a person must understand every event before noticing either the weight of a task or the goodness available within it.

The passage says that God makes things beautiful in their time and gives people a sense reaching beyond the immediate moment. Yet human beings cannot trace God's whole work from beginning to end. Both parts matter. Wonder is possible, and complete understanding is beyond us. The statement should not be used to call an act of cruelty beautiful or to tell someone suffering that they must already know why it happened to them.

The writer then points toward a useful way of living: rejoice, do good, eat, drink, and enjoy what is good in one's work as God's gift. These are ordinary activities rather than a promise that everyone becomes wealthy. A meal, a worthwhile task, or a chance to do kindness may be received with gratitude. Enjoying them does not require pretending that the poem's seasons of mourning and difficulty have ceased to exist.

A present-day example might be finishing a small repair with an adult and sharing a snack afterward. The repair took effort, and the moment of rest can be good. This is not an event added to Ecclesiastes. It illustrates the passage's attention to daily gifts within a world people do not fully understand. The reading invites both honesty about changing times and attention to good that can be received and practiced in the time one has.

Pause and think: What might it mean to ask what a moment needs instead of demanding the same response every time?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Ask What This Moment Needs



Imagine a friend is sad during a celebration because they miss someone. You do not need to make them dance or insist that the whole day be sad instead. What response would give their feeling room? The poem names both mourning and dancing. An ordinary gathering can remind us that people may carry different seasons within the same room and need different kinds of company.

Think of a task with more than one stage, such as growing a plant or sewing a simple project with adult help. What is needed at the beginning, during the work, and at the end? Trying to do every stage at once would not help. This example can make the idea of changing times concrete without claiming that every difficult event follows a schedule you can predict.

Name one daily good you can notice without denying a current difficulty. It could be a meal, a caring conversation, or an opportunity to help. Gratitude is not a command to call harm good. You can thank someone for care and still ask for support with what hurts. Both honesty and appreciation can have a place in the same day.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

Ecclesiastes notices changing seasons and human limits while inviting people to do good and receive daily gifts with gratitude.

What might it mean to ask what a moment needs instead of demanding the same response every time?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. What two different feelings does the poem place together?

2. What daily activities are described as gifts?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ Look for opportunities to do good and receive daily gifts.
- ☐ Consider what people cannot fully understand.
- ☐ Notice the poem's pairs of changing experiences.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw a circle with symbols for planting, building, rest, tears, and joy, without making a prediction calendar.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

I do not have to understand everything to notice a good gift or do a caring action.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

A thoughtful conversation

Identify the passage as wisdom poetry describing contrasting experiences, not commanding each action or excusing violence. Its reflection on God's timing must not be used to call abuse beautiful or blame sufferers. Children may grieve, ask questions, enjoy good moments, and seek protection without having to explain the purpose of every hardship.

Activity answers

1. It names weeping and laughing, and mourning and dancing.
2. Eating, drinking, and enjoying good in one's work are described as gifts.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 3, 2, 1. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

If you wish: God, help me be honest about this season and notice good I can receive or do.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on Ecclesiastes 3:1-13. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration: original symbolic vector artwork by DigiPick.store; a learning aid, not an additional Bible event.
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