



# Devotional

April 12 - June 27

## WEEK ELEVEN (JUNE 21–27)

### **Day 173: June 21, 2020**

**Full Plan: Proverbs 27:1–29:27**

**Abbreviated Plan: Proverbs 31:10–31**

“Iron sharpens iron, and one person sharpens the wits of another.” (Prov. 27:17) We all need people who make us better and stronger in the faith simply by our being around them. Who are those people for you?

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

### **Day 174: June 22, 2020**

**Full Plan: Proverbs 30:1–33**

**Abbreviated Plan: Ecclesiastes 1:1–18**

Proverbs 30:7-9 names the two most important things that we should pray for every day: 1) that we may live and speak truth, and 2) that we may have all we need, nothing more or less. Truth and contentment are pillars of wise living. How is that true for you?

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

## **Day 175: June 23, 2020**

**Full Plan: Proverbs 31:1–31**

**Abbreviated Plan: Ecclesiastes 9:1–18**

Proverbs concludes with chapter 31 and the image of a household as a metaphor for the wise life. It is one that does good (12) is industrious (13) influential (16) strong (17) cares for the needy (20) and empowers others (23). What will you do to nurture these qualities for your own wise life?

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

## **Day 176: June 24, 2020**

**Full Plan: Ecclesiastes 1:1–2:26**

**Abbreviated Plan: Ecclesiastes 11:1–10**

Ecclesiastes is a favorite biblical book for many people, as it serves as a counterweight to the altruism of Psalms and Proverbs, and names reality for what it is. That's the best starting point for turning away from self and toward God. It's not about us. How is that true for you?

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

**Day 177: June 25, 2020**

**Full Plan: Ecclesiastes 3:1–5:20**

**Abbreviated Plan: Ecclesiastes 12:1–14**

Ecclesiastes 3-5 reminds us that we cannot control time, cannot ignore the evils of the world, and cannot make it on our own. But we can make the most of our time, choose joy, and control our speech and actions.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

**Day 178: June 26, 2020**

**Full Plan: Ecclesiastes 6:1–8:17**

**Abbreviated Plan: Song of Solomon 1:1–17**

Ecclesiastes 7:1-14 reads like the beatitudes, in that it both names and normalizes the shadow side of life. Life isn't always easy, but we should not give up. The best we can do is face each day for what it is, and remember that it is good to be alive. What hope does that encouragement bring you?

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

## **Day 179: June 27, 2020**

### **Full Plan: Ecclesiastes 9:1–12:14**

### **Abbreviated Plan: Song of Solomon 8:1–14**

We consume so much time concerned about what may or may not happen. Suffering also can happen whether we deserve it or not. Ecclesiastes 9-12 reminds us that the best and only thing we can do is live fully in the moment. How will you live more fully in the moment today?

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

## **June 21–27, 2020: Weekly Devotion by Gary Uremovich**

Solomon wrote three incredible books including the Book of Proverbs, the Song of Solomon and Ecclesiastes. He is communicating wisdom, romantic love, and life-truths. What an amazing (and complicated) ruler! What happened between the two very beautiful and insightful books and the book of Ecclesiastes. In this book, we see a broken man - all of his fame and possessions 'under the sun' provided no sense of fulfillment.

Solomon knew how to use words! In Proverbs 29:20 he says "Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him."

I have taught this book in a group a couple of times. I had never heard of this book being 'comforting'! But it is! Solomon had everything and pursued getting more. This did not bring joy. We need to avoid chasing the wind since everything under the sun is a mere vapor. Things, fame, and even achievements just don't bring a sense of fulfillment. At the end of his life he sees that clearly. He has failed the Lord in committing idolatry and will lose his kingdom.

In the first 11 verses we see Solomon using 'I, me, myself...'. 40 times. In verse 11 he concludes that 'all was vanity and striving after the wind.' A self-centered life is an empty life - despite possessions, wealth and fame. Solomon had it all! Yet, in the end it was empty. A rewarding and joyful life is always focused on the eternal - God AND people are eternal.

If all you have is what can be bought or earned 'under the sun' then life is a dreary struggle. The rich man never has enough, the attractive person fears the inevitable fading of beauty, the owner of vast amounts knows that someone will take it over once they are gone (and perhaps squander it). It's not life under the sun that brings fulfillment - but real life in the Son.

**Prayer:** God, help me to focus on the things that really matter.