

FAITH@HOME GUIDE

November 24-29

A resource to be used for Family or Individual worship this week. The daily readings are listed and a shorter option is in () if time is short.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

Prayers this week: Dick Mingo, Abby Nack, Bonnie Heck, Joanne Walker (sister of Carol Truenow)

Ongoing Prayer: Tony Hall

Cancer Care & Treatment: Sheila Finberg, Mark Thompson

Confirmation Students: Kennedy Prow-Dockendorf & Braelyn Reichel

Thanksgiving: Prayer of Thankfulness for Mary & Bob Neumann on their 48th Wedding Anniversary

Families as we go through our membership: Don, Sandy, Ali Murphy; John, Abby, Valerie, Tyler Nack; Robert, Vicki, Jessica, Corey Neils; Holly, Liam, Lacey Nelson; Barbara Neske; Marvin Neubert; Bob, Mary Neumann; June, Paul Niemela; Bob Nordquist; William, Vicki, Isaiah, Jami, Emily, Daniel Novak.

Questions to consider:

Who is someone I will support or encourage this week? What can I do and how will I do it?

Who do I know that is disconnected from the Lord that I can pray for and share my faith with and possibly invite?

Things to Commit to Memory this Week

1. Author of the book of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes: **Solomon**
2. Expresses that something is insubstantial, elusive, or transient like a vapor or breath: **Vanity**
3. Phrase emphasizing human life apart from God's eternal perspective: **under the sun**
4. Which two books in the Bible don't directly mention God: **Song of Solomon and Esther**
5. Ecclesiastes 3:11 "He has made...**everything beautiful in its time**...Also, he has put...**eternity into man's heart**...yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end."
6. Ecclesiastes 3:14 "I perceived that...**whatever God does endures forever**;...nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it...**God has done it, so the people fear before him.**"

7. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 “Two are better than one...**because they have a good reward for their toil**...For if they fall...**one will lift up his fellow**...But woe to him who is alone when he falls...**and has not another to lift him up!**”
8. Ecclesiastes 12:13 “The end of the matter; all has been heard...**Fear God and keep his commandments**...for this is...**the whole duty of man.**”

Monday November 24th—Reading Ecclesiastes 3-4 (3:1-22)

Ecclesiastes 3 emphasizes that there is a proper time for every activity and season under heaven, highlighting the order and purpose in God’s sovereignty. Ecclesiastes 4 reflects on the reality of oppression, loneliness, and human striving, showing that life without companionship or justice is burdensome. Together, these chapters encourage trusting God’s timing, valuing relationships, and recognizing the limitations of human effort apart from Him.

1. What is a verse in the reading that stuck out to you and why did you like it?
2. Using 3:1-8, Do you find these words comforting or frustrating? Why?
3. Using 3:11, How does this verse shape your perspective on patience, purpose, and trusting God’s plan? How might Ephesians 1:9-10 affect how we view Ecclesiastes 3:11?

Tuesday November 25th—Reading Ecclesiastes 5-6 (5:1-20)

Ecclesiastes 5 emphasizes the importance of reverence, caution, and integrity in approaching God, warning against careless vows, empty words, and the pursuit of wealth as life’s ultimate goal. Ecclesiastes 6 reflects on the emptiness of wealth, power, and long life when they are enjoyed without the ability to find satisfaction or meaning. Together, these chapters underscore that true contentment and purpose come from fearing God, enjoying His gifts, and living with a proper perspective on life’s fleeting nature.

1. What is a verse in the reading that stuck out to you and why did you like it?
2. Using 5:1–2, How can we cultivate reverence and carefulness in our prayers and worship today?
3. Using 5:10-12, How do these verses challenge our attitudes toward money, possessions, and contentment?

Wednesday November 26th–Reading Ecclesiastes 7-8 (7:19-29)

Ecclesiastes 7 emphasizes the value of wisdom, patience, and the fear of God, contrasting the benefits of righteous living with the futility of folly and the fleeting nature of life. Ecclesiastes 8 highlights the importance of obeying God's authority, exercising discernment, and recognizing that human understanding is limited, even when observing injustice and life's uncertainties. Together, these chapters encourage a life of wisdom, moderation, and reverence for God, acknowledging both the limits of human perspective and the ultimate sovereignty of God.

1. What is a verse in the reading that stuck out to you and why did you like it?
2. Do you find 7:1-3 depressing or hopeful? What might Solomon be trying to convey that is counterintuitive?
3. Why is wisdom better than wealth in this 7:12?

Thursday November 27th–Reading Ecclesiastes 9-10 (9:1-18)

Ecclesiastes 9 reflects on the certainty of death, the unpredictability of life, and the importance of enjoying God's gifts while living wisely. Ecclesiastes 10 contrasts wisdom and folly, showing how foolish behavior can ruin lives and communities, while prudent, disciplined conduct leads to stability and benefit. Together, these chapters urge readers to live with awareness of life's brevity, pursue wisdom, and embrace joy and diligence in the present under God's sovereign plan.

1. What is a verse in the reading that stuck out to you and why did you like it?
2. Reflecting on 9:7–10, Why is it important in the midst of weighty and universal matters to sometimes keep life simple and have gratitude?
3. Using 10:10, What are some other similar phrases that you use to remind you that wisdom helps you succeed?

Friday November 28th–Reading Ecclesiastes 11-12 (12:1-14)

Ecclesiastes 11 encourages taking action, embracing life's opportunities, and giving generously, recognizing that life is uncertain and the future is in God's hands. Ecclesiastes 12 reflects on the inevitability of aging and death, urging a life of reverent obedience to God, who ultimately judges all deeds. Together,

these chapters conclude the book by calling readers to live wisely, joyfully, and faithfully, trusting God and remembering Him in all seasons of life.

1. What is a verse in the reading that stuck out to you and why did you like it?
2. Using 11:1, How can we apply generosity and risk-taking in faith in our lives?
3. Using 12:13–14, Looking back, how does this conclusion reflect on Solomon's laments of vanity earlier in the book?

Saturday November 29th—Reading Song of Songs 1-3 (1:1-17)

Song of Songs 1–3 celebrates love, desire, and commitment between a bride and her bridegroom, using poetic imagery to describe attraction, intimacy, and mutual admiration. These chapters explore the beauty of romantic love, the longing of separation, and the joy of union, portraying love as both passionate and tender. They also highlight themes of delight, devotion, and the anticipation of reconciliation, emphasizing the value of emotional and relational connection within a committed relationship.

1. What is a verse in the reading that stuck out to you and why did you like it?
2. Using 1:1, The song highlights the wondrous and stirring aspect of earthly love and life. What does that mean for eternal love and life?
3. Using 2:15, What are some “little foxes” that can harm relationships—whether romantic, familial, or spiritual—and how can we guard against them?

Life Application Focus: *3 summary points that come up in the week of readings. Write down another you came up with.*

1. God makes everything beautiful in its time.
2. Two are better than one—stay united.
3. Guard your steps before the Almighty God.
- 4.