

# life is short.

A Study from Ecclesiastes

Sunday, November 11, 2018 | Wawasee Community Bible Church | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

## PART 5: BE THANKFUL

*Ecclesiastes 7:13-14; Select Scriptures*

Life is short and full of **DIFFICULTY** and **FRUSTRATION**—

### **Psalm 90:10-12 (ESV)**

- 10 The years of our life are seventy,  
or even by reason of strength eighty;  
yet their span is but toil and trouble;  
they are soon gone, and we fly away.
- 11 Who considers the power of your anger,  
and your wrath according to the fear of you?
- 12 So teach us to number our days  
that we may get a heart of wisdom.

much of which I can never **CONTROL.**;

*Ecclesiastes 7:13; Luke 12:12-26*

### **Psalm 100:3 (ESV)**

Know that the Lord, ***he is God!***

It is *he who made us*, and we are *his*;

we are *his people*, and the sheep of *his pasture*.

## *Two Hands of God's Will:*

### 1. His **active** hand

Ephesians 1:11; Isaiah 46:10

### 2. His **permissive** hand

Example: Job (see Job 2:10); Genesis 50:20

but I do have agency to **CHOOSE** my attitude!  
*Ecclesiastes 7:14*

**attitude** = *"a pattern of thinking developed over a long period of time"*

— James MacDonald

Choose to **sin** → Choose to **suffer**.

Exodus 20; Deuteronomy 28:58-64

*example: **complaining***

Numbers 11:1ff; Romans 1:21;

Choose to **obey** → Choose **blessing**.

Exodus 20; Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 13-15

*example: **thankfulness***

1 Corinthians 10:11; Hebrews 13:15; Psalm 100; 1 Thess. 5:16-18

**Which will you choose?**

Philippians 4:4-8

# 1:10 COMMUNITY GROUP **HOMEWORK**

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## **GETTING STARTED**

1. **What are you most thankful for? Why?** — In what areas of your life or for what specific things have you grown more thankful over time? Is there something in your life that you took for granted at one point but are now thankful for? What changed your perspective?
2. In general, would you say you're a thankful person? Why or why not?
3. **Read Ecclesiastes 7:13-14 (NLT), 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Ephesians 5:20.** Review your message notes. What stood out to you from the message this week? Do you have questions? Disagreements? Discuss it with your group.

## **DIGGING DEEPER**

4. Do you think most people are aware of their attitudes or think about them often? How do you think people develop positive or negative attitudes?
5. Do you think it's easy or difficult to change an attitude?
6. Have you ever considered complaining to be sinful? How does that change your perspective? What complaining attitude can you repent of? (See **Numbers 11:1** — *consider reading the full account down through Numbers 14:12 before your group meets.*)
7. How does thankfulness lead to greater faith?
8. **Read Psalm 100.** This Psalm self-identifies itself as being “a psalm for giving thanks.” It's five verses long. **For each verse, answer the following questions together:**
  - a. What is the command of this verse? To whom is it addressed?
  - b. Are there any descriptions in this verse of how we're to keep its command?
  - c. How does this verse relate to giving thanks —and/or— how does this verse stir up an attitude and spirit of thankfulness in your heart?
  - d. What do you need to do/change in light of this verse?

## **UP CLOSE**

9. What will you do to guard yourself from complaining this week? Whenever you catch yourself being tempted to complain, deliberately choose to stop yourself and ask the Lord to change your attitude.
10. Is there anyone to whom you need to express thankfulness this week?
11. What specific things will you do this week to grow in an attitude of thankfulness?

This week's study is from Juanita Ryan, *Praying the Psalms: 9 Studies for Individuals or Groups: With Notes for Leaders*, A LifeGuide Bible Study (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Connect: An Imprint of InterVarsity Press, 2003), 44–46.

Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, and live life together. We call them 1:10 Community Groups (the “1:10” comes from Colossians 1:10). The questions here are based on the sermon each week, and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a 1:10 Group, let us know on the Connect Card in your bulletin.

# PRAYER GUIDE

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 11, 2018

*During your prayer time this week, let's all be praying together about the following items.  
Use the space at the bottom to record your personal prayer items, or requests from your 1:10 Group.*

## Neighboring Church

Pray this week for the ministry and people of The Sanctuary in Syracuse and Pastor Craig Fritchley.

## Personal Prayer Items

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## Word Find for Ecclesiastes 7:13-14 (NLT)

*Find the words **bolded** below.*

12 **Wisdom** and **money** can get you **almost anything**, but **only wisdom** can **save** your **life**.

13 **Accept** the way God does **things**, for who can **straighten** what he has **made crooked**?

14 **Enjoy prosperity** while you can, but **when hard times strike**, **realize** that **both** come from God. **Remember** that **nothing** is **certain** in this **life**.

G	A	I	C	W	V	G	O	E	V	O	S
M	M	P	A	H	H	A	R	D	G	N	T
A	J	R	R	E	A	L	I	Z	E	L	R
D	Y	O	E	N	P	M	O	N	E	Y	I
E	O	S	M	O	A	O	H	A	C	S	K
B	T	P	E	C	N	S	B	C	R	N	E
O	I	E	M	E	Y	T	N	C	O	A	N
T	M	R	B	R	T	Z	O	E	O	S	J
H	E	I	E	T	H	H	T	P	K	T	O
S	S	T	R	A	I	G	H	T	E	N	Y
C	A	Y	Z	I	N	W	I	S	D	O	M
A	V	S	K	N	G	H	N	L	I	F	E
Z	E	Z	Z	C	S	L	G	C	O	M	E