

*Biblical Illustrator* Articles  
for  
**BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE**  
(Original usage date: Spring 2019)

Unit 1 – Finding Meaning

Session 1 – When Life Feels Empty

- **A Cyclical View of History**
- **Vanity: A Word Study**
- Ecclesiastes in a Positive Light
- Time and Eternity: A Hebrew Understanding
- Introducing Ecclesiastes
- Vanity: A Word Study
- Wisdom Literature in the Bible

Session 2 – The Problem with Pleasure

- **The Significance of Royal Gardens**
- **QuickBites: Solomon's Gardens**
- Acquiring Wealth in the Ancient Near East
- Vanity: A Word Study
- House Construction in Ancient Israel

Session 3 – The Problem with Wisdom

- Vanity: A Word Study
- The “Fool” in Wisdom Literature

Session 4 – The Problem with Work

- **Labor: A Biblical View**
- God “Gives” in Ecclesiastes
- Vanity: A Word Study
- It’s About Time

Session 5 – The Problem with Wealth

- Trade and Wealth in the Ancient World
- Acquiring Wealth in the Ancient Near East
- Ecclesiastes: The Preacher’s View of Death

Session 6 – Full Contentment

- **InSites: Book Production: From Papyrus to the Printing Press**
- Time and Eternity: A Hebrew Understanding
- An Allegorical End
- It’s About Time

Unit 2 – He Said *What?*

Session 1 – God Won’t Forgive This Sin

- **Messianic Miracles: First-Century Jewish Expectations**
- Demons: A First-Century Understanding
- The “Kingdom of Heaven” in Matthew
- Beelzebul

Session 2 – You’ll Never Die

- Resurrection in Jewish Thought
- Thomas in Scripture and Tradition
- Jesus’ Post-Resurrection Appearances
- “Lazarus Has Died”
- The Meaning of “Believe”

Session 3 – Sell Everything You Own

- **Greatness in the Kingdom: A Jewish Understanding**
- The “Kingdom of Heaven” in Matthew
- To Be A Disciple
- The Son of Man

Session 4 – Love Your Enemies

- **Jesus, the Master Teacher**
- What Made One a “Sinner”?
- Jesus the Master Teacher
- Who Were the “Sinners”?
- Who Is My Enemy?

Session 5 – Let the Dead Bury the Dead

- To Have Disciples in the First Century
- Animal Imagery in the New Testament
- Birds in Israel
- Luke's Use of “Kingdom”

Session 6 – Hate Your Family

- Salt in the Ancient World
- Jesus and Possessions: What Luke Teaches
- Family Structure in the First Century

Session 7 – Exploit Your Friends

- **Estate Management in Jesus' Day**
- To Have Disciples in the First Century
- Jesus and Possessions: What Luke Teaches
- The Role of a Steward