

**UNDERSTANDING THE SEASONS IN LIFE**

**Ecclesiastes 3:2-8**

**Parts 1-3**

*"As long as the earth remains, there will be springtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, day and night." Genesis 2:22 (LB)*

*"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1*

*"... everything on earth has its special season." (NCV)*

**5 FACTS ABOUT THE SEASONS OF LIFE**

1. They are beyond \_\_\_\_\_

*"God controls the times and the seasons. He makes and unmakes kings." Daniel 2:21 (GN)*

2. They are often \_\_\_\_\_

*"... God does everything just right and on time, but people can never completely understand what he is doing." Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NCV)*

3. God has a \_\_\_\_\_ for each season.

*"We know that all that happens to us is working for our good IF we love God and are fitting into his plans." Romans 8:28 (LB)*

4. The seasons include both \_\_\_\_\_ times.

Eccl. 3:2-8 *"There is a time to...*

*be born/die*

*plant/uproot*

*heal/kill*

*build/tear down*

*laugh/cry*

*dance/grieve*

*gather/scatter*

*hug/not hug*

*find/lose*

*keep/throw away*

*repair/tear*

*speak up/be quiet*

*love/hate*

*peace/war*

5. What I \_\_\_\_\_ in one season, I'll \_\_\_\_\_ in another.

*"Let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."*  
Galatians 6:9 (KJV)

### HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF EACH SEASON 4 Questions to Ask

1. WHAT CAN I \_\_\_\_\_ IN THIS SEASON OF LIFE?

*"Remember what you have learned about the Lord through your experiences with him."*  
Deuteronomy 11:2 (GN)

*"(This happened) ... so we might learn to trust, not in ourselves, but God..."*  
2 Corinthians 1:9 (Ph)

2. WHAT CAN I \_\_\_\_\_ IN THIS SEASON OF LIFE?

*"People ought to enjoy every day of their lives." Ecclesiastes 11:8 (NCV)*

*"Give thanks in all circumstances; this is God's will for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)*

*"I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances." Philippians 4:11 (NIV)*

3. WHAT IS \_\_\_\_\_ IN THIS SEASON OF LIFE?

*"Live life, then, with a due sense of responsibility, not as those who do not know the meaning and purpose of life but as those who do. Make the best use of your time, despite all the difficulties these days." Ephesians 5:15-16 (Ph)*

4. HOW CAN I \_\_\_\_\_ IN THIS SEASON OF LIFE?

*"Whenever you are able, do good to people who need help." Proverbs 3:27 (NCV)*

*"If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done." Ecclesiastes 11:4 (LB)*

**THE SEASON OF LONELINESS**  
**2 Timothy 4:6-21**  
**Parts 1-3**

*"It is not good for man to be alone." Genesis 2:18*

**2 TIMOTHY 4:6-21**  
**The Final Days of Paul's Life**

**I. FOUR CAUSES OF LONELINESS**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (vs 6-8)

*"... the time has come for my departure..."*

2. \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 9, 21)

*"Do your best to come to me quickly... do your best to get here before winter."*

3. \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 14)

*"(He)... did me a great deal of harm... he strongly opposed our message."*

4. \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 16, 10)

*"... no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me." "... Demas has deserted me..."*

## II. HOW TO COPE WITH LONELINESS

1. UTILIZE \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 12)

*"... bring my coat... and bring my books..."*

2. MINIMIZE \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 16)

*"... everyone has deserted me. May it not be held against them."*

3. RECOGNIZE \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 17a)

*"But the Lord stood by my side and gave me strength..."*

4. EMPHASIZE \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 17b)

*"... so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might bear it."*

Stop building:

Start building:

**THE SEASON OF LOSS**  
**Ecclesiastes 8:14**  
**Parts 1-3**

Ecclesiastes 8:14 *"Sometimes something useless happens on earth. Bad things happen to good people, and good things happen to bad people."* (NCV)

**HOW TO RESPOND TO LIFE'S LOSSES**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **MY GRIEF**

*"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."* Matthew 5:4

*"Pour out your heart to God, for he is our refuge."* Psalm 62:8

*"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."* Psalm 34:18

2. \_\_\_\_\_ **FROM OTHERS**

*"Carry each other's burdens..."* Galatians 6:2

*"By helping each other with your troubles, you obey the law of Christ."* (NCV)

*"Look after each other so that not one of you will fail to find God's best blessings."* Hebrews 12:15 (LB)

3. \_\_\_\_\_ **TO BE BITTER**

*"Some people have no happiness at all; they live and die with a bitter heart."* Job 21:25 (GN)

*"Watch out that no bitterness takes root among you.. it causes deep trouble hurting many in their spiritual lives."* Hebrews 12:15 (LB)

The antidote:

\* \_\_\_\_\_ what cannot be changed.  
"*...Reach out to God...then face the world again, firm and courageous...*" Job 11:13,16

\* Focus on what's \_\_\_\_\_, not what's lost.  
"*No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you.*"  
1 Thessalonians 5:18 (LB)

4. \_\_\_\_\_ **WHAT'S IMPORTANT**

"*Jesus said... Life is not measured by how much one owns.*" Luke 12:15 (NCV)

"*We brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.*" 1 Timothy 6:7 (NCV)

5. \_\_\_\_\_ **ON CHRIST.**

"*I have learned the secret of being happy at any time in everything that happens, I can do all things through Christ, because he gives me strength.*" Philippians 4:13 (NCV)

How?

\* \_\_\_\_\_ on Christ for stability!  
"*Those who trust in the Lord are steady as Mount Zion, unmoved by any circumstance.*"  
Psalm 125:1 (LB)

"*You, Lord, give true peace to those who depend on you.*" Isaiah 26:3 (NCV)

"*Such a person will not be overthrown by evil circumstances. God's constant care of him will make a deep impression on all who see it. He does not fear bad news, nor live in dread of what may happen. For he is settled in his mind that God will take care of him.*" Psalm 112:6-7 (LB)

\* \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ for direction!  
"*'I know what I am planning for you,' says the Lord. 'I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future.'*" Jeremiah 29:11 (NCV)

\* \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ for salvation!  
"*God is our protection and our strength, for He always helps in times of trouble. So we will not be afraid even if the earth shakes, or the mountains fall into the sea.*" Psalm 46:2 (NCV)

*"We were really crushed and overwhelmed, and feared we would never live through it... we saw how powerless we were to help ourselves; but that was good, for then we put everything into the hands of God who alone could save us... And he did help us and saved us... and we expect him to do it again and again." 2 Corinthians 1:10 (LB)*

**THE SEASON OF PARENTING**

**Psalm 127:3**

**Parts 1-3**

*"Children are a gift from the Lord." Psalm 127:3*

**WHAT KIDS NEED MOST FROM PARENTS**

**1. KIDS NEED \_\_\_\_\_**

*"Practice loving each other, for love comes from God." 1 John 4:7 (LB)*

1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10

**2. KIDS NEED \_\_\_\_\_ "**

*"You must teach these commandments to your children and talk about them when you are at home or out for a walk; at bedtime and the first thing in the morning."*

Deuteronomy 6:7 (LB)

1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10

**3. KIDS NEED \_\_\_\_\_**

*"Correct your children while there is still hope; do not let them destroy themselves."*

Proverbs 19:18 (NCV)

*"Don't use harmful words...Use only helpful words, that build up..." Ephesians 4:29 (GN)*

1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10



4. **KIDS NEED** \_\_\_\_\_

*"Don't scold your children so much that they become discouraged and quit trying."  
Colossians 3:21 (LB)*

*"If you love someone... you will always believe in him, and always expect the best of him..."  
1 Corinthians 13:7 (LB)*

1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10

5. **KIDS NEED** \_\_\_\_\_

*"People ought to enjoy every day of their lives, no matter how long they live."  
Ecclesiastes 11:8 (NCV)*

1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10

6. **KIDS NEED** \_\_\_\_\_

*"Whoever can be trusted with a little can also be trusted in a lot... And if you can't be trusted with things that belong to someone else, who will give you things of your own?"  
Luke 16:10, 12 (NCV)*

1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10

7. **KIDS NEED** \_\_\_\_\_

*"The Lord is faithful to all his promises... and fair in all that he does."  
Psalm 145:13, 17 (NIV)*

1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10

*"It takes wisdom to have a good family,  
and it takes understanding to make it strong."  
Proverbs 24:3 (NCV)*

**THE SEASON OF FINANCIAL STRESS**  
**Philippians 4:19**  
**Parts 1-3**

**GOD'S GUARANTEE:**

*"God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19*

**THE CONDITIONS:**  
**GOD PROMISES TO MEET MY FINANCIAL NEEDS...**

**1. IF I ASK** \_\_\_\_\_

*"You do not have, because you do not ask God." James 4:2 (NIV)*

*"You have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy will be the fullest possible joy." John 16:24 (NCV)*

**2. IF I LEARN** \_\_\_\_\_

*"I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of contentment in every situation." Philippians 4:12 (LB)*

Contentment -- my happiness doesn't depend...

*"There's great gain in godliness combined with contentment for we brought nothing into the world and we can take nothing out of it." 1 Timothy 6:6-7 (NRSV)*

**3. IF I PRACTICE** \_\_\_\_\_

*"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each one should give what he's decided to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make ALL grace abound to you, so that in ALL things at ALL times, having ALL THAT YOU NEED, you will abound in EVERY good work." 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NIV)*

*"Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income, and he will fill your barns..."*  
Proverbs 3:9-10 (LB)

**4. IF I MAINTAIN \_\_\_\_\_**

*"The Lord demands fairness in every business deal..."* Proverbs 16:11 (LB)

*"Better be poor and honest than rich and dishonest."* Proverbs 19:1

*"The blessing of the Lord brings wealth, and he adds no trouble to it."*  
Proverbs 10:22 (NIV)

**5. IF I TRUST HIM \_\_\_\_\_**

*"Your heavenly Father already knows perfectly well what you need ... and he will give it to you if you give him first place in your life and live as he wants you to."* Matthew 6:33 (LB)

*"Don't... put your hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but put your hope in God..."*  
1 Timothy 6:17

*He gives food to those who trust him he never forgets his promises."* Psalm 111:5 (LB)

**THE SEASON OF TEMPTATION**

**Matthew 26:41**

**Parts 1-3**

**HOW TO HANDLE TEMPTATION**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **IT**

*"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation." Matthew 26:41 (NIV)*

*"If you are thinking, 'I'd never behave like that' -- let it be a warning to you. For you too may fall into sin." 1 Corinthians 10:12 (LB)*

2. \_\_\_\_\_ **RESPONSIBILITY**

*"Temptation is the pull of your own evil thoughts and wishes. These evil thoughts lead to evil actions..." James 1:14-15*

3. \_\_\_\_\_ **FOR HELP**

*"Jesus... had the same temptations we do, though he never once gave in and sinned. So let us come boldly... to God ... and find grace to help in our times of need." Heb. 4:15-16 (LB)*

*"Call to Me when trouble comes..." Psalm 50:15 (GN)*

4. \_\_\_\_\_ **MY STRUGGLE TO A FRIEND.**

*"Remember this -- the wrong desires that come into your life aren't anything new and different. Many others have faced exactly the same problems before you." 1 Corinthians 10:13 (LB)*

*"Admit your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed." James 5:16*

5. \_\_\_\_\_ **TEMPTING SITUATIONS**

*"A wise man... turns away from evil, but a fool is arrogant and careless."*  
Proverbs 14:16 (NAS)

*"I thought about the wrong direction in which I was headed, and turned around and came running back to you." Psalm 119:59 (LB)*

6. \_\_\_\_\_ **GOD'S WORD**

*"God will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." 1 Corinthians 10:13b (NIV)*

*"Accept salvation from God to be your helmet and receive the Word of God... to use as a sword." Ephesians 6:17 (JB)*

HOW TO RECONCILE A RELATIONSHIP  
Parts 1-3

*“Those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness.”*  
James 3:18 (NLT)

THE CAUSE OF CONFLICT: \_\_\_\_\_

*“What leads to strife, discord and feud, and how do conflicts, quarrels and fighting originate among you? They arise from your own selfish and sinful desires that are always at war inside you. You are jealous and covet what others have... You burn with envy and anger and aren't able to obtain the gratification you seek, so you fight and war. You don't have because you don't ask God.” James 4:1-2 (Amp)*

*“For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will.”*  
Romans 8:7 (NLT)

THE CURE: \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

*“At one time you were far away from God and were His enemies because of the evil things you did and thought. But now, by means of the death of His Son, God has made you His friends, in order to bring you, holy, pure, and faultless, into His presence.”*  
Colossians 1:21-22 (GN)

*“Everyone who believes in Jesus is freed from all guilt and declared right with God — something the Law of Moses could never do.” Acts 13:39 (NLT)*

2. \_\_\_\_\_

*“If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask Him, and He will gladly tell you.”*  
James 1:5 (LB)

3.

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*“If you’re standing before the altar in the Temple, giving an offering to God, and you suddenly remember someone has something against you leave your offering there beside the altar. Go first and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your gift to God.”* Matthew 5:23-24 (NLT)

4.

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*“Why do you notice the little piece of dust in your friend’s eye, but you don’t notice the big piece of wood in your own eye? First, take the wood out of your own eye. Then you will see clearly to take the dust out of your friend’s eye.”* Matthew 7:3, 5 (NCV)

5.

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*“Be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.”* James 1:19 (NLT)

*“...we must bear the ‘burden’ of being considerate of the doubts and fears of others...”*  
Romans 15:2 (LB)

6.

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*“When we were unable to help ourselves, at the moment of our need, Christ died for us, although we were living against God.”* Romans 5:6 (NCV)

*“We were God’s enemies, but we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son.”* Romans 5:10 (NIV)

7.

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Reconciliation = reestablish the relationship  
Resolution = resolve every issue

## **GOD'S GOAL FOR HIS CHURCH**

*“God has restored our relationship with Him through Christ, and has given us the ministry of restoring relationships. He did not hold people’s faults against them, and He has given us this message of restored relationships to tell others. We are Christ’s representatives...We beg you on behalf of Christ to become reunited with God.” 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 (GW)*

*“God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.”  
Matthew 5:9 (NLT)*

## **WHO DO I NEED TO RECONCILE WITH?**