

Life on Purpose: The Message of Ecclesiastes

## The Teacher's Notebook

Ecclesiastes 10: 1-20 (NIV)

## Life on Purpose: The Message of Ecclesiastes

**Realize the little things do matter.**

Ecclesiastes 10:1

As dead flies give perfume a bad smell, so a little folly outweighs wisdom and honor.

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**Monitor your heart.**

Ecclesiastes 10: 2-3

<sup>2</sup> The heart of the wise inclines to the right, but the heart of the fool to the left. <sup>3</sup> Even as he walks along the road, the fool lacks sense and shows everyone how stupid he is.

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### Be a thermostat, not a thermometer.

Ecclesiastes 10:4-7

<sup>4</sup> If a ruler's anger rises against you, do not leave your post; calmness can lay great errors to rest. <sup>5</sup> There is an evil I have seen under the sun, the sort of error that arises from a ruler: <sup>6</sup> Fools are put in many high positions, while the rich occupy the low ones. <sup>7</sup> I have seen slaves on horseback, while princes go on foot like slaves.

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### **Work smarter, not harder.**

Ecclesiastes 10: 8-11

<sup>8</sup> Whoever digs a pit may fall into it; whoever breaks through a wall may be bitten by a snake. <sup>9</sup> Whoever quarries stones may be injured by them; whoever splits logs may be endangered by them. <sup>10</sup> If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed but skill will bring success. <sup>11</sup> If a snake bites before it is charmed, there is no profit for the charmer.

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### Guard your tongue.

Ecclesiastes 10: 12-15

<sup>12</sup> Words from a wise man's mouth are gracious, but a fool is consumed by his own lips. <sup>13</sup> At the beginning his words are folly; at the end they are wicked madness— <sup>14</sup> and the fool multiplies words. No one knows what is coming—who can tell him what will happen after him? <sup>15</sup> A fool's work wearies him; he does not know the way to town.