

Celebration  
of time

Ecclesiastes 3



# FAMILY RESOURCE



## BRIDGE THE GAP

A Faith @ home resource for families

Celebration of time service Sunday 21 November

### What's happening at GAP?

Over the month of November at Gracepoint it is customary to spend time, celebrating and acknowledging special moments as a family, which includes moments of healing, remembrance and thanksgiving. At GAP we would like to encourage you to engage these moments with your children as a family together, as we pause to come close to God.

### Sunday 21 November: Celebration of time

Today at GAP our focus is on time. Ecclesiastes tells us about the different times, or milestones or moments, we can expect to experience in our lives, such as a time to celebrate or a time to mourn. In this special service, we will be looking at different moments we have experienced this year and what they mean to us. This will be a service of celebrating time and looking back at all the different moments we have experienced over this strange year.

### Family Moments:

We would like to encourage you to take sometime to work through the family resources for this lesson which are available at [www.gracepoint.co.za/gap-grade-4-6](http://www.gracepoint.co.za/gap-grade-4-6)  
Please send time praying as a family and working through the material supplied in this resource.

### Family Time:

#### 1. At Home Lesson

God is with You (Ecclesiastes 3:1-12)

Gather your family together. Start off in prayer. Pray for each other, the church, the leaders around the world, and people who you know are in need. Ask God to teach your family something during this time together. Tell the Bible story and discuss.

## BIBLE STORY

Today's lesson comes from Ecclesiastes 3:1-12. You can read the story from the bible you have at home, or read the New International Readers Version (NIRV) below:

"There is a time for everything. There's a time for everything that is done on earth.

There is a time to be born. And there's a time to die. There is a time to plant. And there's a time to pull up what is planted.

There is a time to kill. And there's a time to heal. There is a time to tear down. And there's a time to build up. There is a time to weep. And there's a time to laugh. There is a time to be sad. And there's a time to dance. There is a time to scatter stones. And there's a time to gather them. There is a time to embrace someone. And there's a time not to embrace. There is a time to search. And there's a time to stop searching. There is a time to keep. And there's a time to throw away. There is a time to tear. And there's a time to mend. There is a time to be silent. And there's a time to speak.

There is a time to love. And there's a time to hate. There is a time for war. And there's a time for peace."

What do workers get for their hard work? I've seen the heavy load God has put on human beings. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also given people a sense of who he is. But they can't completely understand what God has done from beginning to end. People should be happy and do good while they live. I know there's nothing better for them to do than that.

## CONNECT AND DISCUSS

Ask these questions and explain these things to your children. Break it down on their level and adapt to their age group. The older your kids are, the more they can explain and think outside the box. Instead of defining words, ask them what it means. For younger kids, make sure to explain in the simplest terms. No matter the age, let them answer before you do. Accept their answers and make sure they know you are proud of how hard they are thinking, even if they don't get the "right" answer.

- Ecclesiastes is a big word! It is a book of the Old Testament. Ecclesiastes is a Greek word that means "preacher" or "teacher." The writer of Ecclesiastes collected wisdom together and helped teach it to people.
- Wisdom is a word that means knowing what's right and being able to make good decisions. When we have knowledge of God in our hearts, we have wisdom to do what's right and treat others the way God would want us to treat them.
- This passage teaches us that there is a time for everything. Sometimes we are sad, sometimes happy, mad, joyful. Sometimes we feel like crying and sometimes we feel like having a party! No matter what we feel or what we are doing, God is with us! God created all of our feelings and is with us even when bad things happen in the world or in our lives.
- What is something happy that has happened this week? How was God with you?
- What is something sad that has happened this week? How was God with you?

- Sometimes we see God through nature or other people. When have you seen God this week?
- This week, we are going to talk every night about where we saw God that day, so let's pay attention!

### CLOSE IN PRAYER

Pray for God to show Godself to you and your family this week. Ask Jesus to keep teaching you the right way to live and how to live like you believe in Him. Thank God for keeping your family safe and pray that God heals the world from the Corona Virus.

## 2. Game idea:

You will need: Balloons (at least one per child), permanent marker pens (e.g. Sharpies), music, lots of space.

Get each member of the family to write or draw on the balloons things that they would like to thank God for.

Play the music and get the family to bat the balloons in the air, not letting any fall to the ground. When the music stops, the family members need to grab a balloon and thank God for one of the things written or drawn on it.



*May this be a special time for you and your family!*

