



INTRO

[One thing that I did to kick this message off was to recap the year. You can do this by going through the different teachings that you did, covering pop culture items from the year, or showing pictures from your events. This is a great way to get everyone on the same page and having fun!]

What's up, everybody? You made it! It's the end of the school year! Finals are almost behind you. Teachers have officially entered the "watch movies all week" phase of the semester. And some of you—especially seniors—have already mentally checked out. You've got a wicked case of senioritis, and it's BAD.

Let me ask you a question: What are your goals for this summer?

[Take some time to discuss this! It's a fun way to get them talking. I added a couple of slides with ideas of what they might be looking forward to. Feel free to add your own ideas as well.]

Who's looking forward to sleep?

Who's looking forward to just hanging out with friends?

Who's going to the beach this summer?

Who's excited to go to camp?

Is anyone planning on just binging Netflix as much as possible?

What about video games?

Now, I know some of you are like, "My goal is to not think at all, thank you very much." Others are just trying to survive the last week of school or get through that AP exam without crying into your Scantron. I get it. I've been there. Finals week has a special way of making you question your whole life. But seriously—what are you aiming for this summer?

TRANSITION

Because here's the deal: **it would be a shame to waste your summer.** You get about 10 weeks of sunshine, Chick-fil-A runs, beach days, late nights with friends, and maybe even a family vacation or a camp somewhere. That time is a gift. But how you use it? That's on you.

So, today I want to talk about how to crush it this summer; how to make it count, how to look back on this summer and go, "Yeah... that mattered." And to do that, we're going to look at one of the wisest people who ever lived—King Solomon—and what he wrote in Ecclesiastes 3.

Let's be real; summer has a rhythm. There's that first week where you just sleep. You don't set alarms. You eat cereal out of mixing bowls. You wear the same hoodie every day, and you're kind of proud of that.

Then the "I'm bored" phase hits. You've watched everything on Netflix. Your parents are suddenly trying to get you to do chores, and you're like, "This is not what I signed up for." Somewhere along the way, you might do something amazing—or nothing at all.

Some of you go to camp and have those spiritual "mountaintop" moments. Some of you binge 200 hours of video games and start calling your bedroom "the cave." Some of you fall in love with someone at Dairy Queen and think it's forever (it's not). And some of you might just drift through summer like it's a commercial break between school years. Like I said earlier, it would be a shame to waste your summer!

What if this summer could be different? What if God has something specific in mind for you; right now, right here, before you even open that popsicle? Let's dig into what Solomon had to say.

SCRIPTURE

Today, we'll be studying what Solomon had to say about this in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (ESV).

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

Solomon reminds us that life happens in seasons. There's a time for everything. And that means—yep—there's a time for summer.

You might be expecting me to ask you to be a spiritual monk who isolates themselves all summer and only reads the Bible; that's SO far from what I want for you!

It's a GOOD thing to take a nap.

It's a GOOD thing to hang out with friends.

It's a GOOD thing to relax and enjoy yourself.

Yes, it's also a good thing to be responsible, do homework, and complete your chores. But this message isn't about making you more "responsible." My hope is that you take time to rest as well as take time to grow. This is really all about the balance that comes with the different seasons. It's natural to want to rest after you finish a school year! The danger is that sometimes rest can turn into laziness. Again...it's all about balance.



1. What's one word you would use to describe how you feel about summer right now, and why? *(This helps break the ice and gives insight into where students are mentally/emotionally as they enter summer.)*
2. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. What part of that passage stands out to you the most? How do you think it applies to your life this summer? *(Encourages students to engage directly with the text and think seasonally.)*
3. Have you ever looked back at a summer and felt like you wasted it? What made it feel that way? What would you do differently now? *(Gives space for honest reflection and sets up the idea of intentionality.)*
4. What's one goal you could set for your relationship with God this summer? How can our group encourage you in that? *(Takes the sermon challenge and puts it into actionable community support.)*
5. Which of the five application points—rest, faith, friendships, purpose, or slowing down—do you want to focus on most this summer? Why? What are some actions you can take to help you crush it in that area? *(Helps students personalize the message and make a commitment.)*

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