

Series Title: Cloudy Days

Week 6 Message Title: "Clearer Day's"

Text: Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, Proverbs 9:10, Ecclesiastes 6 (support)

Theme: True wisdom isn't found in answers, possessions, or control—but in acknowledging and trusting God. That's how we find meaning even in life's foggiest moments.

Big Idea: When life feels meaningless, wisdom tells us to fear the Lord—not fear the future.

Illustration: "The Expired Milk Test"

"Have you ever opened a gallon of milk, sniffed it, and thought, 'I'm not sure...'? You don't need a chemistry degree to know if it's bad. One sniff and you know: something's off."

That's what the Teacher says about life without God. It looks fine on the outside... but deep down, something smells off. Something is missing.

→ That 'off' feeling is a clue: we were made for more than this."

Transition: The Teacher had everything—but his life still didn't satisfy. His conclusion? The only way to make sense of life is to **fear God**—to live in **awe, surrender, and obedience** to Him.

1. Without God, Even the Best Life Feels Empty

Thought: You can succeed at a goal and still feel dissatisfied.

Point: Don't live a full life with an empty heart!

Text: Ecclesiastes 6:1–6

"God gives some people wealth, possessions and honor... but does not grant them the ability to enjoy them."

- The Teacher paints a tragic picture: someone who has **everything** (wealth, honor, long life), but no **peace or joy**.
- In today's terms: tons of followers, perfect Instagram life, the best shoes, straight A's — but still **feeling empty**.
- **Mental health struggles often come from focusing on what we don't have externally— and not realizing what we have internally**
- The Teacher uses strong language: "a miscarriage is better off" (v. 3) — not to depress us, but to **wake us up**.

Supporting Scripture: Mark 8:36 – "And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?"

Takeaway: You can win at life and still lose your soul if you live without purpose. The fear of the Lord is what gives purpose to everything else.

Ask Teens: *Have you ever gotten what you wanted... and still felt unsatisfied?*

Illustration: Video Game - "Imagine playing a video game and skipping all the cutscenes just to beat the levels. You win... but you don't know what the game was about, leaving without a true appreciation for the story.

→ That's what life is like when you only chase success — you might 'win,' but you never experience the purpose.

The Teacher says, 'I beat the game of life — and it still felt empty.'"

Tie-in: God didn't create us just to win. He created us for relationship — that's the story we're meant to live.

Truth:

- Success without purpose = frustration.
- Possessions without joy = meaningless.

2. The Fear of the Lord Makes Sense of the Fog

Text: **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14** - That's the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone's duty. God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad.

Proverbs 9:10 - Fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment.

Explanation: "*Fear of the Lord*" isn't terror—it's reverent awe, surrender, and trust in God's wisdom above our own.

Point: When you **fear God**, you start seeing life through **His lens**, not your pressure or pain.

- It leads to obedience—not because you have to, but because you trust Him.

Further Explanation: The Teacher confesses: we can't control the future or understand everything.

Point: This isn't about **giving up**, it's about **looking up**.

Reframe:

True wisdom isn't knowing all the answers. It's knowing **God does**, and choosing to trust Him.

[Leader Note: ILL *Explains trusting God and walking in gratitude even when the future is unclear*]

Illustration: Flashlight In The Fog

Have you ever walked through fog at night with a flashlight? You can't see the whole road, just a few feet ahead. But you keep moving, trusting the light will guide the next step.

→ That's what wisdom looks like — not having all the answers but trusting God with what you do know.

- God's Character is like that flashlight — He keeps you moving, even when life is cloudy because you can trust The Guide who's leading you.

Challenge: Start with the light you do have: God's presence. His love. Today's blessings. That's where clarity begins.

Application:

- Stop chasing meaning through stuff, status, or success.
 - Start trusting God and living **with Him**—even in the fog.
 - Gratitude clears your vision.
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Conclusion

Key reminder verse: "The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." – **Ecclesiastes 12:13**

The Teacher writes an entire book asking questions, venting frustrations, and exploring every path... but at the end, the narrator leaves one clear conclusion:

"Fear God. Keep His commands. That's the whole point."

Point: Why? Because **God sees the full picture**. He's not just with you in the fog—**He's above it**.

Prayer Response

"God, we confess we've looked for meaning in a hundred places. But we come back to You. Teach us to fear You, trust You, and follow You—even when life feels cloudy. You are the Light we need."

Closing Visual/Activity (Optional)

 Write a short prayer or statement to your future self on a cloudy day reminding you to trust God and fear Him above all else.

Example: *"Even when I don't understand, I'll still trust that God is good and knows what's best for me."*

Talk It Out:

Male Group Discussion Questions

1. What's something you've chased or worked hard for that didn't give you the satisfaction you thought it would? (Status, popularity, sports wins, money, attention, etc.)
2. Why do you think guys often feel pressure to "figure out" life on their own? How does that affect your mental health or relationship with God?
3. What does "fearing the Lord" mean to you—not as being afraid of God, but respecting and trusting Him?
4. The Teacher says wisdom is found in fearing God and obeying Him. What's one area in your life where it's hard to obey God right now?
5. When life feels confusing or unfair, do you usually try to fix it, distract yourself, or bring it to God? What do you think a wise response would be?
6. How could choosing gratitude and reverence for God change the way you handle cloudy or hard days?

Female Group Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever had a "cloudy day" where life felt pointless or overwhelming? What helped you push through it?
2. What are some things the world tells us bring meaning that don't really satisfy? How have you seen that in your own life or in others?
3. What does "fearing the Lord" look like in real life for a teenage girl today? How is it different from just being religious?
4. What helps you shift from fear of the future or people's opinions to trust in God?
5. How can obedience to God actually bring peace, even when it's hard? Can you think of a time where obeying God made a situation better, even if it was difficult at first?
6. If someone asked you, "Why should I fear God?" what would you say after today's message?