



# It's Uncool to Be a Fool

## Open it

1. What is the dumbest decision you have made in your life?

## Daily Devotions

Day 1 — Today's Theme: Explore It

Read Ecclesiastes 10:1–11:10.

2. How should you respond when someone in authority over you (a ruler) is angry with you?
3. What evil has he seen “under the sun, as if an error coming from the ruler”?
4. What wins the wise man favor?
5. Why does the roof sink in and leak?
6. What should a person who lives many years rejoice in, and what will be many?

## Day 2 — Today's Theme: Temper Tantrums

### Read Ecclesiastes 10:1–4.

Have you ever had a coach or teacher get angry at you? I remember when I was in the middle of my 9th grade year and I switched schools, I went in early to meet my new math teacher to take a placement test to see what level of math I would be in. It was dark out and early, like 6 AM early, and no one else was really around. I walked into the school and into the room where my new math teacher was quietly enjoying her morning and getting ready for her day, unaware that I was standing behind her. When she finally saw me, she was so startled and instantly became angry because I had unintentionally scared her. She said, "Haven't your parents taught you to knock before entering a room?"

That was a bad way to start things off with my new math teacher. I profusely apologized and I did my best to show her respect and try my hardest in her class for the rest of the school year.

Today's passage exhorts us to respond with wisdom. If someone in authority over you loses their cool, you should remain calm and continue carrying out your responsibilities for that person.

**7. When have you had a teacher, coach, or employer lose their cool? Why did they get upset? How did everyone react?**

**8. First Timothy 4:12 (NIV) says, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." How does this verse help you respond with wisdom when someone in authority over you is challenging to deal with?**

## Day 3 — Today's Theme: Sharpen Your Skills. Don't Waste Your Life.

### Read Ecclesiastes 10:10.

Have you ever tried chopping wood with a dull ax? You can still chip away the wood, but it takes more strength and more chops to break through. However, if you take a few minutes to sharpen your ax, then splitting the wood becomes much easier and takes less strength.

God has given you a unique set of skills. This can be your intellect, your athletic ability, your social ability to relate to others, etc. Even though He has given you these skills, you still need to take time to develop them through use, practice, and learning from others who have more experience and knowledge than you in the area that God has gifted you.

I have often seen and heard about teens that are talked about who have natural athletic ability, musical ability, or intellectual ability, but they don't want to put in the hard work to develop those gifts that the Lord has given them, and therefore they don't ever reach their full potential!

**9. What gifts/talents has the Lord gifted you with? If you don't know what your gifts are, how do you think you can discover them?**

**10. What is the difference between spiritual gifts and natural abilities that God has given us?**

**11. Are you fully developing and using the gifts the Lord has given you? What steps can you take to further develop your gifts?**

## Day 4 — Today's Theme: Watch Your Words

### Read Ecclesiastes 10:12–14.

One thing that you do every day is speak, and according to one study, probably around 7,000 words a day.<sup>1</sup> We use words to communicate our thoughts and feelings. Yet, when we speak we aren't just communicating words, but we show others how wise or foolish we are. Our passage today says that the words of the wise are gracious, meaning that their words are a blessing to others. A foolish person on the other hand is reckless with his words and wreaks havoc in his own life and in the lives of others. A fool cannot refrain from speaking, especially when he shouldn't speak, whether it's an inappropriate comment, gossip, anger, grumbling and complaining, slander, etc. God says that *"Even fools are thought wise if they keep silent, and discerning if they hold their tongues."*<sup>2</sup>

One other truth about our words the Bible tells us is that our words really show what is in our hearts.<sup>3</sup> Our words reveal if our hearts are full of wickedness or if our heart is full of our love for the Lord and others. So as you walk away from this time with the Lord, think before you speak. May this verse be true in your life today: *"May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer."*<sup>4</sup>

### 12. How do the words of the wise bless others?

### 13. Would you say that your words tend to build others up or tear others down? Why would you say that?

### 14. Read Psalm 19:14, write it on a notecard, and commit it to memory, making it a daily prayer in your life.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.linkedin.com/business/learning/blog/career-success-tips/you-speak-at-least-7-000-words-a-day-here-s-how-to-make-them>

<sup>2</sup> Proverbs 17:28

<sup>3</sup> Matthew 12:34; Luke 6:45

<sup>4</sup> Psalm 19:14

## Day 5 — Today's Theme: The Lazy River

### Read Ecclesiastes 10:15–19.

My favorite place to hang out in a water park is the lazy river because you can just sit on an inner tube and mindlessly float along the river as long as you want without thinking about any other cares in life. There is a time for resting and relaxing in life, but not before you put in hard work, whether at school, your sports, your job, or chores around the house. There is always work to be done in our lives, whether it's schoolwork or some other project, but we don't always "feel like" doing the responsibilities we have in our lives. If we choose to be lazy, then we will reap consequences. If you see that something in your house needs fixing, like a leaking roof, and you are too lazy to fix that leak, you will inevitably bring about more damage to your home as the water destroys your walls, floors, and other things under your roof.

What should our ultimate motivation for work be?

I love what God says in Colossians 3:23 (NIV): *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men."*

**15. Give the description of a lazy student. What does his life look like?**

**16. Do you struggle with laziness? If so, in what ways? How can someone (maybe yourself) make a change so as not to be lazy?**

## Day 6 — Today's Theme: Invest in Your Future

### Read Ecclesiastes 11:1–6.

How do you spend your time and money? You can tell what is important to you by where you spend your time and what you spend your money on. Today's passage instructs us to make investments. "Cast your bread upon the waters' means that life has opportunities, and we must seize them, not merely play it safe."<sup>5</sup> Whenever you invest in something there is always a risk of it not turning out right, but Solomon encourages us to take risks. For the farmer who may want to watch the wind before planting or the clouds before reaping, there is no perfect time for him to plant and reap, just like there is no perfect time for us to move forward with decisions in life. If you wait for the perfect time and place in your life to start getting serious about investing in your relationship with Jesus, that time will never come. Instead, start today! Our passage also encourages us to be generous with our time and resources with others, especially when we have plenty, because we don't know in the future when we may need to depend on the generosity of others.<sup>6</sup>

**17. Outside of your school day, how do you spend your time? What do you spend your money on?**

**18. There are always risks when you make a choice to invest in something. How do you know if you are making wise choices versus unwise choices when you choose to make an investment in something?**

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<sup>5</sup> Life Application Study Bible, commentary for Ecclesiastes 11:1–5

<sup>6</sup> NIV Study Bible, 1983 commentary for Ecclesiastes 11:1

## Day 7 — Today's Theme: Enjoy Your Youth While Keeping God in Your Life

### Read Ecclesiastes 11:7–10.

Are you enjoying your middle school and high school years? It's so sad to see that so many students today are not enjoying life right now. Many are depressed and full of anxiety. Others want to get through these years as a student as fast as they can.

God instructs you to enjoy your growing-up years, but do this by always keeping God at the center of your life. I had a pastor friend of mine tell me that you don't ever want to create memories that you want to forget or regret. Jesus said that He has come to give us life to the full!<sup>7</sup> So how do you enjoy life to the fullest? We enjoy life to the fullest by walking closely with Jesus day by day!

I had a missionary friend give me some wise counsel when it comes to making decisions. He said to walk as closely as you can to Jesus all day long and then when decisions have to be made, you will know exactly what to do.

**19. Are you enjoying life right now? Why or why not? How can you enjoy life to the fullest by keeping God at the center of your life?**

**20. Are there memories in your life that you want to forget or that you regret? What can you do about those choices you made?**

Note: This study was written by Pastor Mario Arindaeng. [www.villagebible.church/students](http://www.villagebible.church/students).

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<sup>7</sup> John 10:10