

LifeGroup Questions  
Based On: Ecclesiastes 7:14  
July 17, 2016

**Overview:**

Not everyone is a fan of math. Some of us are good at algebra while others are good at geometry. There is probably a type of math that you like and a type of math that you don't like. One of the worse math classes I ever had to take was Statistics. If you ever have trouble sleeping at night and need something to help you, look up the formula for standard deviation. Why discuss math when looking at Ecclesiastes 7:14? Wouldn't it be nice for someone to give you a formula for life? A simple formula where you could calculate when the good and bad days were going to occur. This formula would allow you to prepare for the unknown.

Even though no such formula exists there is a way to make it through both the good and bad days of life. The Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 4:12, "In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being content—whether well fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need." It didn't matter whether Paul was having a good day or a bad day. He was at peace. This peace was not achieved through a formula, but by putting his faith in Jesus. Both Solomon and Paul understood that God created the whole universe and is in control through both the good and bad of life.

God gave Solomon wisdom beyond measure. One thing that Solomon understood was that wisdom does not replace faith. "Wisdom is not a key that can be used in independence of the Creator to unlock the secrets of the universe, to shape existence after mortal desires, and to control life."<sup>1</sup> Life is a lot more complicated than a math formula. Solomon had both the wisdom of God and the example of his father David to handle the good and bad days of life.

During King David's reign one of his sons, Absalom, tried to take over the kingdom. 2 Samuel 15 records David running for his life out of Jerusalem. In 2 Samuel 15:25-26 David said: "Return the ark of God to the city. If I find favor in the LORD's eyes, He will bring me back and allow me to see both it and its dwelling place. <sup>26</sup> However, if He should say, 'I do not delight in you,' then here I am—He can do with me whatever pleases Him." David had faith in God whether he was going to lose his kingdom or get it back. This was the example Solomon had in front of him. How we handle both the good and bad days of life will have an impact on those around us. We never know who is watching how we respond.

**Bible Study:** Ecclesiastes 7:14

1. How do you handle bad days?
2. Read Philippians 4:11-13. In what ways was Paul able to find contentment? Do you have this same contentment? Why or why not?
3. Read Ecclesiastes 7:14. Why does Solomon write that God has made both the good and bad days?
4. How does the way you react to adversity have an effect on the people around you?

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<sup>1</sup> Provan, I. (2001). *Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (p. 151). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

5. Read Ecclesiastes 7:15. In what ways does this verse seem unfair? Why do we expect rewards for good behavior and adversity for bad behavior? How do you accept both good and bad from God?
6. Some people would rather rely on knowledge than faith. They want the assurance of what is seen rather than what is not seen. In what ways in your life do you find wisdom and faith competing with one another?
7. Through both the good and the bad you react \_\_\_\_\_. How would you want those people around you to fill in the blank? What steps can you take to make that a reality?