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**Week Five Assignment**

Here's the assignment for week five, the briefer version first, then the fuller version second.

**Readings:** *Book of Ecclesiastes*

**Study Qs:** [*Book of Ecclesiastes* SQs](http://philosophycourse.info/SQsite/ecclsq.html)

**Mini-lectures:**

• Review previous lectures, especially

[Introduction to](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-jobintro.html) *[The Book of Job](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-jobintro.html)*

[The lecture on Proverbsian wisdom](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-pvbswis.html), and

[What God likes about Job](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-godlikes.html)

• [Stages on Life’s way](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-stages.html)

• Materials on the class [homepages for *Ecclesiastes*](http://philosophycourse.info/hebwislitsite/eccles-homepg.html)

**Discussion:**

a) Discussion of [the problem of evil](http://philosophycourse.info/DQsite/dq-evilprob.html)

b) Discussion of *The Book of Job* can continue

c) Discussion of [DQs in *Ecclesiastes* lecture](http://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-hebwislit.html)

d) When you post your quote from Ecclesiastes this week (and to whom you recited it), please also say a few words about what that passage means to you, and how you see it fitting into the message of Ecclesiastes.

e) [Tolstoy’s dream](http://philosophycourse.info/DQsite/dq-tolstoydrm.html)

**Memorize and recite:** one passage from *Ecclesiastes*.

**Due date:** 6pm Wed evening

**Now just a few notes on a couple of these things:**

**Readings & SQs:** *Ecclesiastes*

**Mini-lectures:** As you read the lecture about "stages on life’s way," you’ll see what many others have seen as a certain progression in the wisdom teachings of these three books. The progression seems almost to reflect what often happens as one grows up and has more experience of the world. It can also mirror how a more reflective and more spiritually alive person can emerge out of the spiritual naïveté sometimes found in youth.

**Discussion Qs:** The assignment this week is mostly threefold:

i. You may, if you like continue discussion of *Job* and [the problem of evil](http://philosophycourse.info/DQsite/dq-evilprob.html)

ii. Discuss *Ecclesiastes* and the lecture on it, including Tolstoy’s question about finding a meaning that endures.

iii. Discuss the meaning of Tolstoy’s dream.