

The background of the slide is a vibrant red sunburst pattern. The rays of the sunburst originate from the bottom center and fan out towards the top corners, creating a sense of energy and radiance. The rays vary in length and thickness, with some being more prominent than others.

# THE GREATNESS OF SERVICE

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*Serving God in Youth*

# THE LIFE OF SOLOMON

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- **Born the son of David and Bathsheba.**
  - 2 Samuel 12.24
- **Given great wisdom by God.**
  - 2 Chronicles 1.7-12
- **King over Israel at its pinnacle.**
  - 2 Chronicles 1.15
- **Didn't always live according to wisdom:**
  - 1 Kings 11.4-6
- **Ecclesiastes and Proverbs seem to be written by Solomon as he nears death.**

# THE MESSAGE OF ECCLESIASTES

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- **The author is probably Solomon.**
  - Ecclesiastes 1.1,12
- **He is searching for meaning in life.**
  - Ecclesiastes 1.2-3
- **He repeats a few phrases:**
  - “Vanity of vanities” — emptiness
  - “Under the sun” — the perspective of life that does not include God. (1.3,4; 3.16)
- **He is frustrated by life’s seeming emptiness.**
  - Ecclesiastes 1.14

# THE MESSAGE OF ECCLESIASTES

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- He tries to find the meaning of life in:
  - Learning and wisdom — 1.16-18
  - Pleasure and laughter — 2.1-3
  - Wealth, privilege, and sex — 2.4-8

*"Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, For my heart rejoiced in all my labor; And this was my reward from all my labor. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done And on the labor in which I had toiled; And indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun."*

*(Ecclesiastes 2:10-11)*

# THE MESSAGE OF ECCLESIASTES

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- **At the end of the book, Solomon arrives at the answer to the meaning of life.**
  - **Ecclesiastes 12.13-14**
- **But when should we serve God?**
  - **Before the events of Ecclesiastes 12.3-7**
    - **A description of the breakdown of the body**
  - **Before the difficult days of Ecclesiastes 12.1**
    - **It's easier to begin to serve God now than later**
  - **While you are young**
    - **Ecclesiastes 11.9-12.1**

# SERVING GOD IN MY YOUTH

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- **But how can I serve God while I'm young?**
  - **By remembering there's more to life than youth.**
    - **Ecclesiastes 11.10**
  - **By enjoying my youth and using that time to draw closer to God.**
    - **Ecclesiastes 11.9**
  - **By choosing my words carefully.**
    - **Ecclesiastes 10.20**
  - **Don't live a regretful life.**
    - **Ecclesiastes 9.9-10**
  - **Listen to the wise voices around you.**

# SOLOMON'S MESSAGE IN PROVERBS

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- **Proverbs 1-9 is a letter written by Solomon.**
  - **It is written to his children/grandchildren (1.8).**
- **Solomon is warning his children not to follow the path that he went down.**
  - **Probably a reference to his many wives.**
  - **Probably a reference to his wealth.**
  - **Probably a reference to his lack of service to God.**

# SOLOMON'S MESSAGE IN PROVERBS

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- **How to serve God in my youth — from someone who failed for a long time:**
  - **Understand what is real in this world — 1.7-8**
  - **Understand I need to avoid some people — 1.15**
  - **Listen to the voices of wisdom:**
    - **David, Solomon's father, sinned with Bathsheba.**
    - **David talked to Solomon - 4.3**
    - **David wanted Solomon to avoid his mistakes - 4.6**
    - **Solomon didn't listen — and that is what is warning us not to do! - 4.10-15**
    - **We must focus on protecting our hearts - 4.23**

# SOLOMON'S MESSAGE IN PROVERBS

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- **How to serve God in my youth — from someone who failed for a long time:**
  - **Understand how sin works:**
    - It seeks to capture us early - 7.7
    - It prefers secrecy - 7.9
    - It wants us to focus on the thrill - 7.10,13
    - It hides its true desire - 7.15-23
  - **Don't give in to sin - 7.24-27**
  - **Find meaning, purpose, and protection in the fear of the Lord — 9.10-11**