

Ecclesiastes

Bible Study at a Glance:

This study is intended to expose participants to the book of Ecclesiastes. It explores a few verses with reflection questions on each.

(Explain to the Group) Let the group know this bible study is just to explore a sampling of verses from the book of Ecclesiastes in order to give everyone a sense of the content of the book.

(Explain to the Group) = You don't have to read this word for word, but this is the general idea of what to explain before moving on.

- **Q: These are questions to ask the whole group**
 - *A: Hopefully the group arrives at most of the answers on their own, but if they don't, redirect the discussion towards these answers, and be sure to tell the group the answers if no one quite got it.*

CCC/Verses and quotes to read out loud are in boxes.

***Ecclesiastes 1:14:** I have seen all things that are done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a chase after wind.*

- **Q: Why is everything a chase after the wind? Is everything in fact meaningless?**
 - *A: The chasing after earthly things in the end is meaningless. What is meaningful is love of God and of each other leading to union with Christ in eternity.*

***Ecclesiastes 3:11:** God has made everything appropriate to its time, but has put the timeless into their hearts so they cannot find out, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.*

- **Q: Why do you think God would choose to make it so that we cannot find out the work which God has done?**
 - *A: As finite creatures, it is impossible for us to fully understand from beginning to end the work which God has done. This is another way of saying God is God and we are only creatures. It is good for us spiritually to humbly acknowledge that reality.*

Ecclesiastes 5:17: *Here is what I see as good: It is appropriate to eat and drink and prosper from all the toil one toils at under the sun during the limited days of life God gives us; for this is our lot.*

(Explain to the Group) The preceding verses talk about the vanity of people hoarding riches, even though they will die without being able to take any of it with them. In light of that, ask the group this question:

- **Q: How do you understand this verse? What do you think God is saying?**
 - *A: We are not to chase after riches, but God himself. It is appropriate, however, for us to enjoy the gifts God has given us in this life (while obviously also being generous with them)*

Ecclesiastes 7:2: *It is better to go to the house of mourning than to the house of feasting, for that is the end of every mortal, and the living should take it to heart.*

- **Q: Why would it be better to “go to the house of mourning”?**
 - *A: There is wisdom in remembering that we will die, that we are mortal. Similarly, there is wisdom gained from suffering. The opposite is to feast and sin without regard to the fact that we will die and be judged. This is the height of foolishness. Needless to say this does not mean it’s bad to feast. Jesus celebrated at the wedding of Cana.*