

ECCLESIASTES 4-5 / SEPTEMBER 6

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Read and Pray

This week's sermon focuses on Ecclesiastes 4–5. With your group, read Ecclesiastes 4:4–12 and 5:1–7. These passages challenge us to consider whether our work and accomplishments are drawing us toward people and God, or leaving us isolated and focused on ourselves. After reading, spend time in silent prayer. What stood out to you? What might the Spirit be pressing into your life from this message?

Sermon Recap (to *apply*, not rehash the sermon)

Review the sermon with your group, focusing especially on these points:

- Work is a good gift from God, but work that begins and ends with ourselves is “chasing after the wind.”
- For work to work, it cannot be about me, but we. Relationships must be greater than accomplishments.
- Our work should reach down to help others and reach out into meaningful relationships.
- Ultimately, our work must reach up to God. Success disconnected from a genuine relationship with God will never satisfy.

Group Discussion

1. The sermon opened with the story of Ty Cobb, who achieved extraordinary success but ended his life deeply isolated. Why do you think it is so easy to trade relationships for accomplishments?
2. Look again at Ecclesiastes 4:4–12. What words, contrasts, or pictures does the Teacher use to describe life done alone versus life shared with others?
3. In Ecclesiastes 4:9–12, the Teacher repeatedly shows why “two are better than one.” Why are relationships essential not only to our happiness but also to our faithfulness?
4. The sermon asks, “Who are you traveling with?” Who knows you well enough to encourage you when you are struggling and help you when you fail? Is there any part of your life where you have allowed yourself to become isolated?
5. The sermon's central challenge is that “relationships must be greater than accomplishments.” Where might your pursuit of accomplishment be crowding out your relationship with God or others? What needs to change?

WEEKLY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

REFLECT:

Where are you most tempted to choose “me” over “we” in the way you approach your work?

RESPOND:

What is one relationship you need to make more room for this week?

REACH:

How can you use something God has given you through your work to help someone in need?

PRAYER

- ☐ Ask God to reveal where accomplishment has become more important to you than people.
- ☐ Pray for the relationships God has placed around you, and ask him to keep you from living or working in isolation.
- ☐ Ask God to help you see your work as a gift that can serve others and ultimately bring glory to him.