

ECCLESIASTES 10-12 / SEPTEMBER 20

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Read and Pray

This week's sermon focuses on Ecclesiastes 10–12. With your group, read Ecclesiastes 11:1–10 and 12:13–14. These verses show us how to live wisely in a world we cannot control: take faithful risks, enjoy the gifts God gives, and live in light of eternity. After reading, spend time in silent prayer. What stood out to you?

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

Review the sermon with your group; what might the Spirit be pressing into your life from this message? Focus especially on:

- Life is designed by God, so live by wisdom. Wisdom does not guarantee an easy life, but wise living is its own reward.
- Life is an adventure, so take a risk. Uncertainty is not a reason to freeze; it is an occasion to trust God.
- Life is a gift, so enjoy it—but don't cling to it. Receive God's gifts with an open hand instead of asking them to provide lasting happiness.
- Life is short, so revere God. Ecclesiastes ends by calling us to "fear God and keep his commandments," because our lives are lived before him.

Group Discussion

1. As Ecclesiastes comes to an end, the sermon summarizes its message as "Make the most of your mist." What is one truth from this series that has stuck with you or changed the way you think about your life?
2. Look again at Ecclesiastes 11:1–10. What commands does Solomon give? What repeated reasons does he give for living this way?
3. Ecclesiastes 11 repeatedly reminds us, "You don't know." Yet, Solomon's response to uncertainty is to act rather than freeze. How can uncertainty become an opportunity to trust God?
4. Ecclesiastes tells us both to enjoy life and to remember that we will one day stand before God. How does knowing that our lives are accountable to God change the way we understand and enjoy his gifts?
5. Ecclesiastes 10:1 warns that "a little folly outweighs wisdom and honor." If you could look five years into your future, what ignored area of foolishness or sin could do the most damage in your life? Who knows you well enough to help you address it now?
6. The sermon ends with the challenge, "Only one life to live, 'twill soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last." If you really believed that "that day" was coming, what would you do differently with this day?

WEEKLY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

REFLECT:

Where is the fear of uncertain outcomes keeping you from being faithful?

RESPOND:

What is one way you can "make the most of your mist" this week?

REACH:

Who has God put in your life that needs to hear this message from Ecclesiastes?

PRAYER

- ☐ Ask God for wisdom to see and address the "dead flies" in your life before small areas of foolishness become destructive (cf. Ecclesiastes 10:1).
- ☐ Thank God for the gifts he has given you today, and ask him to help you enjoy them without clinging to them.
- ☐ Ask the Holy Spirit to help you live this day in light of that day, investing your temporary life in what will matter for eternity.