

ECCLESIASTES 7 / SEPTEMBER 13

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Read and Pray

This week's sermon focuses on Ecclesiastes 7. With your group, read Ecclesiastes 7:1–14. These verses challenge our instincts about what makes for a good life and show us how difficult seasons can teach us wisdom that prosperity often cannot. 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:

- Ecclesiastes 7 gives us a counterintuitive vision of life: Sometimes, the experiences we would never choose are the ones that make us wise.
- The “house of mourning” reminds us that life is short and helps us recognize what really matters.
- Difficult seasons can become classrooms where we learn to trust and know God in ways prosperity rarely teaches us.
- Wisdom means surrendering our attempts to control life and trusting God in both prosperity and adversity.

Group Discussion

1. Look again at Ecclesiastes 7:1–6. What repeated words or contrasts do you notice? What seems to distinguish the wise person from the fool in these verses?
2. Verse 2 says the wise person goes to the house of mourning because “the living will lay it to heart.” What is Solomon saying we can learn there that we are unlikely to learn in the “house of feasting”?
3. The sermon says, “The suffering itself isn’t the gift. The God you meet in the suffering is.” How have you seen a difficult season clarify what matters or deepen your relationship with God?
4. Funerals remind us how often we spend our lives building résumé virtues when what matters are eulogy virtues. If you lived more intentionally with the end of your life in view, what would you want to give more attention to now?
5. Pastor J.D. mentions ways we resist God’s wisdom: money, anger, nostalgia, and self-righteousness. Which of those tends to surface most in you when life is not going the way you want? What does that response reveal about what your heart is demanding from God?
6. Ecclesiastes 7:13–14 tells us to consider God’s work in both prosperity and adversity. Where are you currently trying to control something God is asking you to trust him with? What would surrender look like?

WEEKLY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

REFLECT:

If your life ended sooner than you expected, what would you wish you had given more attention to?

RESPOND:

Where do you need to stop grasping for control and trust God this week?

REACH:

Who is walking through a “house of mourning” season that you can intentionally move toward this week?

PRAYER

- ☐ Ask God to teach you to number your days so you can live with wisdom and focus on what matters most.
- ☐ Thank God for how he has met you in difficult seasons, and ask for faith to trust in the parts of your life you still do not understand.
- ☐ Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal where your desire for control is keeping you from patiently trusting the work of God.