

COMMUNITY GROUPS

living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

2 November 2025

Navigating with Wisdom - Ecclesiastes, chapter 7

Pastor Ted Rastatter

Questions: Kraig Neer

This past Sunday we observed a shift in the Preacher's message - from one about all things being vanity (or smoke) to some lessons about how to live wisely under the sun. Ted pulled eight practical lessons from the text, so let's approach this week's discussion with a slightly different format.

Break into groups, assigning 1-2 lessons per group. Assume for the purposes of the discussion that you're engaging with a non-believer about these lessons. Feel free to brainstorm as a group or assign each group member the role of non-believer or believer. What would the non-believer say in response to the lesson? Would they agree with it? If not, what might be their position? How might they argue with you? If they would argue, how should we respond as believers?

Eight lessons for wise living:

1. Practice character development (Christlikeness) (vs 1)
2. Come to terms with death, judgement, and eternity (vs 2)
3. Grow in wisdom by letting sadness be your teacher (vs 3-4)
4. Learn to take criticism well (vs 5-6)
5. Practice integrity and finishing well (vs 7-9)
6. Give up control (vs 10)
7. Don't be amazed at moral imbalances (vs 15-20)
8. Guard your heart against sexual immorality (vs 27)

If role-playing isn't your cup of tea, try splitting into same-sex accountability groups and discussing how well you're doing at living out these lessons. Remember the dichotomy between obeying what the Bible/Jesus says and the sin that's still present in our lives hindering us from having the power, desire or will to obey. Is obedience just another vanity (vs 29)? If not, why not and support your answer with scripture?