FAIRMOUNT WESLEYAN CHURCH

LIVING LIFE BACKWARD · DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What Really Matters

JUMP TO

Warm-Up · Part 1 · Part 2 · Challenge

WARM-UP

Getting Started

1. **If someone looked at your calendar and bank statement from the last month, what would they say really matters to you?**
   - ↳ Would that match what you'd say matters most?

2. **Who is someone you could call at 2 a.m. if you were in trouble? What makes that relationship so solid?**

↑ Back to top

PART 1

One Handful with Tranquility

Read Ecclesiastes 4:4–8 together.

3. **Verse 4 says much of our work and achievement comes from envy of our neighbor. Where do you see comparison driving people today, at work, online, or even at church?**

4. **"Better one handful with tranquility than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind" (v. 6). What would "one handful with tranquility" look like in your life right now?**

5. **The man in verses 7–8 works endlessly, has no one to share it with, and never stops to ask, "For whom am I toiling?" Have you ever caught yourself asking that question?**
   - ↳ What would your answer be today?

↑ Back to top

PART 2

Two Are Better Than One

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9–12 together.

6. **Verses 9–12 give several pictures of why two are better than one: lifting each other up, keeping warm, standing together. Which one have you experienced most?**

7. **Why do you think so many people, even in church, end up walking through life alone?**
   - ↳ What makes it hard for you to let others help you up?

8. **"A cord of three strands is not quickly broken" (v. 12). What do you think it means to have God woven into our friendships and relationships?**

↑ Back to top

CHALLENGE

Just Be with God

Read Ecclesiastes 5:1–7 together.

9. **The Teacher says to go near to God "to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools" (v. 1). What's the difference between coming to God to be with Him and coming to get something done?**

10. **"God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few" (v. 2). What would it look like to spend time with God without an agenda, a list, or a lot of words?**
    - ↳ What makes that kind of quiet, unhurried time with God hard for you?

11. **In light of everything in this passage, what's one way you can make space this week to just be with God?**
    - ↳ Who is one person you can invest in this week, and how can this group pray for you?

↑ Back to top

This week's challenge: set aside time to simply be with God. No agenda, no rush. Then give yourself to the people and things that really matter.