

onechurch

bigIdea

Paying Bills. Running errands. The project at work. A paper that needs to be written. All of these things sound urgent, but are they important? Solomon shares with us that life is short. There are no second chances. We have only the time given to us by God, and that's it. So how are you using the most precious gift God gives you—your time?



BIG IDEA: Don't put off tomorrow what you can be doing today.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Imagine you are 100 years old looking back on your life. Where do you hope to have traveled, lived, worked? Who do you hope to have met? Or what do you hope to have accomplished?
2. What do you think is the best and/or the worst thing about getting older?
3. *Read Ecclesiastes 12:1 and Matthew 6:33.* How do they compare? What do these scriptures communicate about our lives?
4. *Read Psalms 103:15-16 and James 4:14 & 17.* What is the major theme found in these verses?
5. The word translated “remember” means so much more than “don't forget”. In light of what you've learned from Ecclesiastes, what do you think Solomon is trying to emphasize by saying, “Remember your Creator”? What kind of relationship with God does the word remember imply?
6. Life can get increasingly difficult with time. What are some of the personal challenges that God's wisdom has helped you navigate along your journey?
7. *Read Ecclesiastes 12:3-7.* How does Solomon's poetic style describe the aging process? (connect the imagery in each scripture with the reality of what happens as we age, i.e. the almond tree blossoms = hair turning white) Create a few poetic descriptions of your own.
8. Chris said, “We can't measure how old we are by our birth date, but by our death date.” What do you think he meant by this statement?
9. Why do you think we have the tendency to put off important things in our life?
10. Read Solomon's life conclusion in *Ecclesiastes 12:13*. How are you discovering the truth of this verse in your life right now? In what ways are you learning to let God be God?
11. *Read Joel 2:25.* If you have wasted years of wrecking your life, how are you praying for God to restore what has been lost?
12. What important things have you been procrastinating that you need to intentionally move to the top of your priority list?

MOVING FORWARD

No one sets out on life's journey hoping it will end up a wreck. But as they say, ‘it happens’. Looking back over the past five weeks, what do you need to apply most to your life at this time? Is it some truth about the pursuit of happiness? Redefining success? Isolation? Guardrails? Be honest about the area you most need to grow and share it with a trusted friend. Surrender this area of your life to God and ask Him each day for wisdom to direct your path. He will supply it! God is in the business of putting wrecked lives back together! Nothing is impossible for Him.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone. Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it. James 4:14, 17