

Ecclesiastes Community Group Study Guide

Week 2

Quick review. We're looking at the book of Ecclesiastes. The author's name is qoheleth. Best translation is the Professor, the Philosopher. We can't understand his message unless you realize his unusual method. He is not a lecturer; he is a seminar leader. He is not there just simply to tell you the truth; he's there to ask questions to get you to find the truth. - Timothy Keller

OPENER

What is a season in your life that was beautiful but ended too soon?

READ ECCLESIASTES CHAPTER 3

Why do you think God allows us to go through hard times?

What questions do you tend to ask — of God or of yourself — when things are challenging and it doesn't make sense?

What injustice has God opened your eyes to that would take him to fix it? What is he inviting you to do with this situation?

What does Ecclesiastes 3:11 mean to you: "He hath made every thing beautiful in his time"?

In what ways are you conscious of eternity? How could you become more conscious of it? What does it mean to be "made in God's image"?

How does an awareness of eternity affect the way we live our everyday lives?

Do you feel the same way Solomon did about injustice in his day (see 3:16–17)? Why or why not?

How does knowing Christ make a difference in your attitude toward death?

If you knew you were going to die in one month, what changes would you make in your life?

Why is faith a major element of enjoying and finding satisfaction in life?

Those who get the most out of this life on earth are those who think most about their life in heaven." What do you think that means? Do you agree?"

Notice how the principle of God's 'appointed time' figured in the life of Jesus (Gal. 4:4; John 7:1–9; 7:25–31; 1 Cor. 4:5).

What do the following passages tell us about the nature of God's judgement: Ps. 82:1–5; Acts 17:29–31; Luke 18:7–8; Rev. 6:9–11?

How does God's timing apply to our salvation (Ps. 31:15; Mark 1:15; Rom. 5:6)?

If God is sovereign, how are we to view the injustices of life (vv. 16–22)?

What would you say to a colleague at work, a friend at university or a family member who challenges you about your belief in the essential goodness of God?

DIGGING DEEPER

[A TIME FOR EVERYTHING](#)

[Turn, Turn, Turn - The Byrds](#)

[The Divine Disconnect - The Gift - Tim Mackie](#)

[Part 3 - Awe - Peter Briscoe](#)

[Part 4 - Helpless - Peter Briscoe](#)

[The Crisis of Faith - Tommy Nelson](#)

[The Conflict of Faith: How can you say... - Tommy Nelson](#)

Quotes

It's just hard to be a fallen man in a fallen world.

When an appointed thing occurs, it may not seem that it has any purpose whatsoever, but God sees it from a totally different perspective.

I was teaching this idea in our church and had asked Norma, a wonderful pianist, if she would play for the congregation. I asked her to play "Jesus Loves Me" using only the white keys. When she played, it had a very simple sound. Frankly, it wasn't very interesting.

Next I asked her to play it using as many black keys as she wanted. If you've ever played a piano, you know that by themselves the black keys don't sound very good. That's where all the sharps and flats are. But when Norma played "Jesus Loves Me" and included the black keys, it created a lush, beautiful sound. I asked my congregation to vote on whether they liked it with the white keys only or with the black keys added in. Without a doubt, the song sounds better with the black keys.

Life is just like a song played on the piano. It is a caricature without the black keys. It's not heroic without sin, evil, and pain. You don't know or appreciate the heroism, love, and patience of God until evil enters the world.

Believing that God is wise is the only thing that will sustain you when He plays your life on the black keys.

God requires one thing of you in the face of this uncertainty: Don't let what you can't control destroy what you can enjoy. - Tommy Nelson