

## **Ecclesiastes: Community Group Study Guide**

***Pick and choose questions to answer and discuss***

### **Opener**

What are some of your associations with the word “evangelical”? How have you seen it change in the last several years?

### **Read**

Ecclesiastes 5

### **Engage with God in a Group**

Does church feel like a safe place for you to come, or do you feel like you have to have your act together before getting in the door?

The Teacher lists 4 things that religion instructs us: (1) be careful, (2) be quiet, (3) be responsible, (4) be afraid. Which of these have you experienced in your church life? Which one has had the most power over you in your daily life?

How do you see the New Covenant brought in through Jesus offering something different than the religion described in Ecclesiastes 5?

We are to listen before we speak (vv. 1–2). How can we put this into practice when we pray together?

What part should promises play in worship? How many have you made? How many have you kept?

Check your own attitude to material possessions. Are you suffering any of the symptoms of corruption recorded in vv. 11–17?

According to the observations recorded in 5: 8-17, why should we not be surprised to see injustice and oppression toward the poor?

According to 5: 18-20, what overall approach to life is better than the harmful approaches mentioned in 5: 10-17? How would you describe this better approach in your own words?

How would viewing material possessions as a gift from God change our attitude to them?

What would you select as the key verse or passage in Ecclesiastes 5—one that best captures or reflects the dynamics of what this chapter is all about?

On a typical day, what percentage of your waking hours are spent being “occupied with gladness of heart” (5: 20)? Do you think God wants that percentage to be higher in your experience? If so, how do you think it could be increased?

### **Read Ecclesiastes 6**

What is the particular “evil” that the author of Ecclesiastes describes in 6: 1-6, and why is it evil? Look at the illustrations in chapter 6 vv. 3–9. Can you add to them from your own life and experience?

How would you express in your own words the teaching of 6: 7-9?

How might the teaching in 6: 10 confirm that God is sovereign and has predestined all things?

How does 6: 11 build upon or amplify or reinforce the earlier message of Ecclesiastes 5: 1-7?

The Preacher is deeply concerned about the future (v. 12). What is your attitude towards your future and that of all you leave behind?

What would you select as the key verse or passage in Ecclesiastes 6—one that best captures or reflects the dynamics of what this chapter is all about?

Which of these are evident in Ecclesiastes 5 and 6, and how are they further developed there?

The tragic reality of mankind's sinfulness

The reality of our coming physical death

Enjoying our work, and enjoying life's true pleasures as God's good gifts

Recognizing life's frustrations and hardships

The meaning of true wisdom

Fearing God

Gratefulness to God

## **DIGGING DEEPER**

[Under the Sun - Part 6 - The Church - Peter Briscoe](#)

[Under the Sun - Part 7 - Contentment](#)

[A Caution of Faith: When the Heart Asks Why - Tommy Nelson](#)

[Corrections of Perspectives: The Folly of Riches - Tommy Nelson](#)

[Correcting Your Perspective on Life and Pain - Tommy Nelson](#)

## **Bottom Line**

The work of Jesus put "under the sun" religion to rest — he has opened a living way.