

Ecclesiastes: Community Group Study Guide

Pick and choose questions to answer and

discuss

Opener

When was a time in your life when you had a true friend? How did that friendship enhance your life?

Read

Ecclesiastes 4:1-16

Engage with God in a Group

How do our expectations of God lead us to disappointment with Him? How do those expectations affect you?

What is God's attitude to the oppressed (v. 1 cf. Isa. 10:1–3; Hab. 2:6–14; James 5:1–6)?

What effect does materialism have upon a person (vv. 4–8)?

Has God forgotten us in the midst of oppression, frustration, loneliness and disillusionment (2 Kings 20:5; Ps. 30:5; Luke 7:11–17; John 20:11–18; Rev. 7:17)?

Are you conscious of any of the negative effects of materialism in your life? If so, what steps could you take in order to rectify this?

Are you conscious of your need for companionship and help (vv. 9–12. cf. Acts 2:1, 44–47; 4:32–34)?

How valuable and lasting is popularity (vv. 13–16)? In what ways do you think Christians who become famous or popular can use their influence for the furtherance of the message of the gospel? Are there negative side effects that might need to be avoided?

What are some injustices we see in the world today?

How should Christians respond to injustice?

Where in our society today do you see the envy of other workers and businesspeople that Solomon describes in 4:4?

Do you see a difference between Christian and non-Christian attitudes about work? If so, what are they? If not, explain.

How can a Christian know the proper balance between work and other priorities (family, church, etc.)?

Americans in general tend to be more independent, less group-oriented, than people in many other countries. Why do you think that is?

When should a Christian be independent, and when should he or she seek out others?

How has God blessed you and helped you through friends and fellow Christians?

What distractions and/or pursuits in your life might be impairing your ability to give and receive friendship?

Who do you call on when you've fallen on your face?

Who in your life offers honest grace and speaks truth?

How has that relationship enhanced your life and pursuit of Christ?

Have you known people who bailed out when something bad happened to them? Did they come back?

Do you have friends that will stick with you in tough times? What forces keep you from forming real relationships? How can you overcome them?

Why do we sometimes find it hard to reach out to other people?

What would be a step toward putting your priorities in better order?"

Digging Deeper

[Part 5 - Two - Peter Briscoe](#)

[The Divine Disconnect - The Pursuit of Happiness- Josh White](#)

[The Book of Ecclesiastes - Bible Project](#)

[Ecclesiastes - Communal Lessons - Matt Chandler](#)

Bottom Line: Two is better than one, three is better than two, and being surrounded is best of all