

LIFE GROUP GUIDE
WEEK of November 5-11

PREPARE:

Before your group arrives, make sure you take a few minutes to review the Life Group video and the Life Group Guide.

- It will help you be prepared for Life Group conversations ahead of time.
- Test your video display option to make sure it is working before your Life Group members arrive.

WELCOME:

Take a few minutes to welcome Life Group members.

VIDEO:

Watch the video together

SCRIPTURE:

Read Ecclesiastes 5:10-20 together.

Ecclesiastes 5:

¹⁰ Whoever loves money never has enough;
whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income.

This too is meaningless.

¹¹ As goods increase,
so do those who consume them.

And what benefit are they to the owners
except to feast their eyes on them?

¹² The sleep of a laborer is sweet,
whether they eat little or much,

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but as for the rich, their abundance
permits them no sleep.

¹³ I have seen a grievous evil under the sun:

wealth hoarded to the harm of its owners,

¹⁴ or wealth lost through some misfortune,

so that when they have children

there is nothing left for them to inherit.

¹⁵ Everyone comes naked from their mother's womb,

and as everyone comes, so they depart.

They take nothing from their toil

that they can carry in their hands.

¹⁶ This too is a grievous evil:

As everyone comes, so they depart,

and what do they gain,

since they toil for the wind?

¹⁷ All their days they eat in darkness,

with great frustration, affliction and anger.

¹⁸ This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate

for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their

toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has

given them—for this is their lot. ¹⁹ Moreover, when God gives

someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy

them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of

God. ²⁰ They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God

keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.

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QUESTION:

If you suddenly became incredibly healthy, what would you do?

- Would you quit your job?
- Would you keep your job?
- Would you quit your job and work somewhere else or do something else?

QUESTION:

Do you think it is better to pursue a life where you don't need to work or a life of productive work? Why?

QUESTION:

Solomon states that whoever makes money never has enough.
(v.10)

- Why do you think we often feel like we don't have enough?

QUESTION:

Solomon notices the more you have the more you have to worry about. (v.12)

- What do you think people who have a lot worry about?
- Do you think people also worry about what they don't have? Why do you think that causes such anxiety?

OBSERVATION:

When Jesus spoke with the woman at the well in Samaria he talked to her about her relationships and her sex life.

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- When he spoke to the rich young ruler he talked about money.
- Jesus always addresses the area that we put first in our lives.

QUESTION:

If Jesus were talking to the average person in our culture, what do you think he would focus on?

QUESTION:

Do you think people get uncomfortable when spiritual leaders talk about money? Why do you think that?

OBSERVATION:

The Bible indicates that God entrusts things to us to enjoy and to share. Scripture reveals God is very generous. But Scripture reveals that everything still belongs to God.

QUESTION:

Do you think God is pleased when we enjoy what He has provided to us?

- How do you imagine God would feel if we did not enjoy what He gave to us?

QUESTION:

How do you imagine God feels when we share what we have with others? Why?

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OBSERVATION:

If making more money is the most important thing in a person's life, they are likely to:

- **Stay in a job they do not like**, just because they can't make as much doing what they love.
- **Overwork**. The more you work the more you make.
- **Have wider emotional swings**. They are likely to feel extremely happy when they get something they want and extremely sad when they don't get what they want.

QUESTION:

Have you ever felt like you were overworking? What did you do to bring a healthier balance into your life?

- Do you have a story about staying longer in a job than you should have? How did you make the decision to make a change?

QUESTION:

Have you ever done the right thing and it cost you financially? How did it make you feel?

QUESTION:

Solomon observed that it is good for a person to find satisfaction in their labor (v.18). What if you don't feel satisfied in your job? What options could you consider?

QUESTION:

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What are some things you have learned working in a job you did not enjoy? Did you have any positive takeaways?

QUESTION:

Solomon argues that when you have lots of good things in your life you tend not to reflect as much (v.20). Why do you think that is true?

QUESTION:

Do you think it is valuable to take time to reflect on where you are in life and what is happening?

- What are some options you could consider to increase or improve your reflection time?

OBSERVATION:

Most of the wisdom we gain in life comes from times of reflection or from talking to someone who has helpful insight.

QUESTION:

Often when we think about being a Christian in the workplace, we often think about spiritual insights we might share with others or how we might invite them to a church event.

- What are some other ways we can live out our faith in the work environment?

PRAYER:

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There may be some in your life group who are struggling with financial challenges. It is healthy to ask for God's help in managing the resources we have and providing for our needs.

- Some life group members may also struggle with work environments that feel unhealthy to them or stifle their abilities. They may feel undervalued. They may feel like they are wasting their time. You might ask the group to pray for them to see what they can accomplish where they are, what they can learn where they are, and how they can begin to look for the next step of their lives.