

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, June 12, 2005

Passage: Ecclesiastes 1

Memory Passage: Mark 8:36 **TODAY:** *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Ecclesiastes 1:1.** Who is the author of this book? What three words does he use to describe himself and his position (1:1, 12)?

(b) What do we learn about this author in Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 (1 Kings 4:20-34)? What else does this writer say about himself (Ecclesiastes 1:13; 1 Kings 3:3-15; 10:1)?

(c) What title does he use to describe himself in Ecclesiastes 1:1 and 12:9 (Compare 1 Kings 4:32)?

(d) What eventually happened to this man of wisdom and power (1 Kings 11:1-11)? What warnings are we given in 1 Corinthians 10:12 and James 3:1?

(e) Hebrews 12:1-2 mentions “a great cloud of witnesses” that we are surrounded by. But who are we to keep our focus on (Hebrews 12:2)? Why is this so important?

(f) *Family:* Read 1 Kings 4:20-30 and 11:1-11. Talk together about the people God uses in His service and how sin often destroys their effectiveness. Discuss what happened with Solomon. Finish by reading Hebrews 12:1-2 with the reminder to keep our eyes on Jesus and not on men. Pray together for those in leadership in the church.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Ecclesiastes 1:2-3.** What is the author’s conclusion about all of life? What is the word that he uses to describe life? How would you define this word? How is this word used in James 4:13-14?

(b) Why would he come to this conclusion? What common phrase found in these verses explains *why* he concluded this (Ecclesiastes 1:3, 9, 14; 2:11, 17-20, 22; 3:16; 4:1, 3, 7, 15, 5:13, 18 etc.)?

(c) How does this contrast with the Christian perspective (Colossians 3:1-3; Ephesians 1:18-23)?

(d) Read Psalm 39:5-7. What is man at his best? *Who* should this lead us to trust in?

(e) *Family:* Read Ecclesiastes 1:1-3 and James 4:13-14. Discuss why people are not satisfied with their lives. Talk about “vanity” and what it means in this book. Pray that each of you will remember that life is short and eternity is forever.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Ecclesiastes 1:4-7.** Each of these four verses focuses on a different subject. Underline each subject. What common observation is made about all of them?

(b) What is the reason that he concludes that all of life is vanity in these verses? How do these verses illustrate verse 2?

(c) Read Ecclesiastes 1:8-11. What is the focus of these four verses? How are they different from the preceding ones? What is the same?

(d) What does he mean by “there is nothing new under the sun?” Read 2 Peter 3:3-7.

(e) How are things really made new (Revelation 21:5; 2 Corinthians 5:17)?

(f) *Family*: Read Ecclesiastes 1:4-11. Talk about the cycle of life and how there is really nothing new under the sun. How can things be made really new? Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 and talk together about the “new” birth. Pray for someone who needs to know about new life in Christ.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Ecclesiastes 1:12-15.** What is the focus of these verses?

(b) What is life described as in verse 13? Has life always been like this? *Why* is life this way (Genesis 3:17-19; Romans 8:22)?

(c) What is the conclusion in verses 14-15? Look at this verse in a couple of translations. Why is the believer’s perspective different (Luke 1:37)?

(d) Read Ecclesiastes 1:16-18. Can wisdom and knowledge explain everything? What is usually the result of increased wisdom? *Why*?

(e) *Family*: Read Ecclesiastes 1:12-18. Talk about the way this world was created and how sin has made life seem like a burden. Ask each person to share one thing in their life that has been a burden for them lately. Pray together about those things.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Psalm 73:1-14.** What problem almost caused the psalmist to “stumble” and question his faith?

(b) What brought the Psalmist to his senses (Psalm 73:15-17)? What reality is Ecclesiastes teaching us about life? What did the Psalmist conclude (Psalm 73:23-26, 28)?

(c) What attitude should we have toward all of life (Ecclesiastes 3:12-13; 5:18-20; 9:7-9; 11:9)? Compare these with Romans 14:23 and 1 Timothy 6:17.

(d) Read Ecclesiastes 12:13. What is the conclusion to the matter? How is this wisdom? How does it affect life and our sense of fulfillment?

(e) What can we discover about the meaning of life by all our searching according to Ecclesiastes 3:11; 8:17; 9:1? *Why* has God made things this way (Hebrews 11:6)?

(f) *Family*: Read Ecclesiastes 3:12-13 and 12:13. Why should joy be the main attitude of the Christian life? How can we honor God in all we do? Pray together that each of you will be able to honor God by rejoicing in everything in their lives this week.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. What makes life seem empty? Do you think Solomon’s opinion of life is correct? How can a person have a full life? Pray together for churches that meet tomorrow. Pray that God’s Word will give hope and encouragement to many who are struggling with the emptiness of life.