

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, July 10, 2005

Passage: Ecclesiastes 5

Memory Passage: 1 Peter 3:15

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 5:1-2.** What are some characteristics of false worship in these verses? Why do people assume that such worship is what God desires?
- (b) Read 1 Samuel 15:5-14. What did Saul think would please the Lord? What did God really desire (15:22)? Is obedience part of worship? In what ways?
- (c) Compare Ecclesiastes 5:1-2 with Matthew 15:7-9. Why is attitude important in our worship (Psalm 51:17)? Can our worship be “vanity?” Explain.
- (d) According to these verses, what does God desire in worship? What sacrifices please God today (Hebrews 13:15-16)?
- (e) What should we come to worship ready to do (also James 1:19, 21-25; 1 Peter 2:2)? How can we do this (Acts 17:11)? How have you prepared yourself to hear from God?
- (f) *Family:* Read Ecclesiastes 5:1-2. Talk together about worship. What is it? How should we approach worship? How can we best prepare ourselves for hearing from God in worship? Pray together that every day this week might be an opportunity for worship.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ecclesiastes 5:3-9.** Why should we be cautious about anything that we vow to God? What does God expect when we have made a vow to Him (Numbers 30:2-5; Deuteronomy 23:21-23)?
- (b) Do our words really matter? What did Jesus say in Matthew 12:36? What does James 1:26 and 3:2 tell us about our words?
- (c) What is the value of good words (Proverbs 15:26; 16:24)?
- (d) What is the danger of dreams? What do these passages tell us about the nature of dreams (Psalm 73:20; 126:1)? How is an unfulfilled vow like a dream or like the multitude of words?
- (e) Read Ecclesiastes 5:8-9. Examine these verses in a couple of translations. What concern is raised? What are we told is the fast that the Lord desires in Isaiah 58:5-11? What promises are those given who do this?
- (f) *Family:* Read Ecclesiastes 5:3-9. Why should we keep our commitments to God? Discuss what vows are and about the importance of our words. What are some commitments you have made as a family? What commitments do you need to make? Pray that each family member might keep every commitment made to God.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ecclesiastes 5:10-12.** Why will a person not be satisfied with things they love when those things increase (also Ecclesiastes 6:7)?
- (b) What are we encouraged to do *if* riches increase in our lives (Psalm 62:10; 1 Timothy 6:17-19)? What are some dangers associated with increasing riches (Ecclesiastes 5:11-12; 1 Timothy 6:10; Proverbs 23:4-5)?
- (c) Where should our confidence and our comfort come from (Proverbs 3:21-26; Psalm 127:1-2)?
- (d) What are some biblical reasons for work expressed in these verses: Ephesians 4:28; 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12;
- (e) *How* are we told to work and *why* (Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:22-25)? What does God promise for those who work faithfully (Ephesians 6:8; Colossians 3:24)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Ecclesiastes 5:10-12 and 1 Timothy 6:10, 17-19. What is the problem with desiring things too much? How does this affect our ability to trust God? Spend some time thanking God specifically for things He has given to you.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ecclesiastes 5:13-17.** What is the “sore evil” that Solomon laments in verses 13-15?
- (b) Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10. Is godliness alone to be desired? Why is contentment so essential for believers? How does contentment enable us to love God over all?
- (c) Read Job 1:1-21. Who does Job love more than anything else? How can a contented heart enable us to handle adversity? How did it affect Job?
- (d) How does the man in Ecclesiastes 5:17 respond to adversity and difficulties? What makes the difference in a person’s life?
- (e) Read Luke 12:13-21. What is the concern of the man in verse 13? How is the story Jesus tells similar to the concern Solomon raises? *Who* should we be *rich toward* and why?
- (f) *Family:* Read Ecclesiastes 5:13-17 and Job 1:1-21. Talk about contentment and why it is important for our lives? What attitude did Job have that enabled him to handle even the most difficult situation possible? Pray that God would give each of you a heart to be contented with all God gives you.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Ecclesiastes 5:18-20.** Why is it good for us to enjoy life? How does our love for God affect our enjoyment of life?
- (b) What does Solomon mean when he says, “for it is his portion?” How does an understanding of God’s sovereignty affect our ability to enjoy life?
- (c) What are the things in the portions that God has given to each of us? How should this affect our thankfulness for each of these things?
- (d) Look up verse 20 in a couple of translations. What is he saying about remembering the days of our lives (Psalm 90:12)?
- (e) What does Solomon mean “God *answers* him in the joy of his heart?” What is the *question*? What is the *answer*?
- (f) *Family*: Read Ecclesiastes 5:18-20 and Psalm 90:12. Talk together about how God enables us to have and enjoy all that we have. What gives a person real joy in his heart? Pray that each of you might be so full of God’s joy tomorrow that someone might ask about the “reason for the hope within you” (1 Peter 3:15).

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. How does *our worship* express our love for God? Does yours? How do *our commitments* express our love for God? Do yours? How does *our joy* express our love for God? Does yours? Pray that tomorrow you might prepare your heart and really come ready to worship God, joyfully and obediently.

DATE: July 10, 2005

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Loving God Over All

“And you shall love the Lord with all your heart ...”