

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, September 11, 2005

Passage: Ecclesiastes 12

Memory Passage: Psalm 112:1 **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 12:1.** What other passages in Ecclesiastes have warned us about not waiting until it is too late? What are some reasons that it is wise to *act now* rather than wait until later?
- (b) What attitude are we told to have toward our Creator? Read Psalm 100. What are we to remember about God and how should this affect the way we live our lives?
- (c) Does “remember” mean more than memory (Genesis 9:15-16; Exodus 20:8; Psalm 74:2, 22)? Why?
- (d) What two reasons does Solomon give that we should remember our Creator in our youth? What did Jesus tell His disciples about the importance of today in Matthew 6:33-34?
- (e) What great promise do believers have according to Isaiah 43:1-7? *Why* have we been created? How should we live?
- (f) *Family:* Read Ecclesiastes 12:1 and Psalm 100 (and maybe Psalm 139). Talk about what it means for God to be our Creator. How does this affect what He says and commands? Talk together about all God has done for us in creation and pray thanking God for His special creation of each person in your family.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ecclesiastes 12:2-5.** What are some of the “word-pictures” that Solomon uses to describe growing old? How is this described in Psalm 90:10?
- (b) What was David’s desire in his old age in Psalm 71:17-18?
- (c) **Read Ecclesiastes 12:6-7.** What new pictures does Solomon introduce about death and dying?
- (d) How is man distinguished from all the animals (Genesis 2:7; Psalm 49:15; Ecclesiastes 3:21)? What was the confidence of Old Testament believers (Psalm 71:20; Job 19:26)?
- (e) What happens to the body at death (Genesis 3:19; Luke 23:36; Acts 7:59; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10)? How should this affect our joy as we face the reality of death and dying?
- (f) *Family:* Read Ecclesiastes 12:6 and 2 Corinthians 5:6-10. Talk together about our physical life and what happens when a person dies. How are we different from the animals? Talk about salvation and how it affects our eternal destination. Pray for someone that needs to know the Lord.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ecclesiastes 12:9-12.** How did Solomon describe his words in these verses? Make a list of the terms he uses to describe his words. What does this tell us about his approach to what has been taught in this book?
- (b) Why was Solomon concerned about speaking *wise words* (Proverbs 8:6-11)? How can he be so confident that the words he has written are wise?
- (c) What is a “goad”? What does this picture imply about his words? What does the picture of “nails” imply? What pictures about the Word of God are conveyed in these verses (Jeremiah 23:29; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 2:1-2)?

(d)What does Solomon mean that these words were from “one Shepherd?” Why is this important? What do 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and 2 Peter 1:20-21 tell us about these “words?”

(e)Verse 12 seems to be a negative view of learning and of books in general. What is Solomon trying to tell us? What should be the desire of our lives and how can we achieve it (2 Peter 3:18; 1 Peter 2:1-2)?

(f) *Family*: Read Ecclesiastes 12:9-12 and 1 Peter 2:1-2. Discuss the value of hearing God’s Word. Thank God for His Word and pray that each may understand it, love it and live by it.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a)**Read Ecclesiastes 12:13-14.** Summarize the “conclusion/end of the matter” in your own words. How is this a summary of all we have learned from this book?

(b)How is the fear of God foundational to all in life (Proverbs 1:7)? What is the fear of the Lord according to these verses in Proverbs 8:13; 14:27; 15:33; 16:6?

(c)What are the blessings of fearing God (Proverbs 19:23; 14:26; 10:27; Psalm 33:8; 33:18; 34:7; 147:11)?

(d)Oswald Chambers wrote, “The remarkable thing about fearing God is that, when you fear God, you fear nothing else; whereas, if you do not fear God, you fear everything else.” Why is this so (Proverbs 29:25)?

(e)*Family*: Read Ecclesiastes 12:13-14. Talk about what it means to “fear God” and how this affects the way people live their lives. What happens when people do not fear God? Pray that each of you will learn to fear God in a way that changes your lives.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a)**Read Psalm 112.** What is the first characteristic of someone who fears God (Psalm 112:1)? How is this seen in Ecclesiastes 12:13?

(b)How does fearing God affect *our stability* in life (Psalm 112:6-8)? How can this give us satisfaction and joy even in the midst of difficulties of this world?

(c)Why should we fear God and keep His commandments (Ecclesiastes 3:17; 8:11; 11:9; 12:14)?

(d)On what basis will God judge (Also see Matthew 12:36; 1 Corinthians 4:5)?

(e)How would you summarize the message of Ecclesiastes? How can we prevent our lives from being “vanity” and emptiness (1 Corinthians 15:58)?

(f) *Family*: Read Psalm 112 together. Talk about the kind of lives that please God. Pray that each will desire to know God’s commands and obey them with all their heart.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Talk about why it is important to live for the Lord *now* rather than later. How should the reality of growing older affect us? What have you learned about how God’s Word can benefit us? Pray together for the teaching of God’s Word tomorrow. Pray that God will use it as “goads” and “nails” from “One Shepherd.”