

Life Group Study Guide Ecclesiastes 3-5

The Seasons of Life

We've all been through the ups and downs of life. As a group, **read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8** aloud, then take some time to have each person share one difficult time and one happy time from their life. If your group has been together for a while, it may be good to try to share experiences that the people in your group don't know about. (As an alternative, have each person in the group write each experience down on a 3x5 card, then have someone read them one at a time. As you read them have the group try to figure out which person wrote each experience.)

What Carries You Through?

In Ecclesiastes 3, 4 and 5, we read about a variety of views on life. Some of the observations are based on the realities of life – these observations tend to be rooted in TEMPORAL aspects of life. These statements can be hopeless and discouraging. Other observations are rooted in TRANSCENDENT truths about who God is and how He designed us. These statements provide hope and strength to have peace no matter what life throws our way.

Read Ecclesiastes 3:9-22. As you read this passage try to identify which statements are rooted in TEMPORAL aspects of life and which identify TRANSCENDENT truths that help us to approach life from God's perspective.

- 1) What temporal statements did you find?
- 2) What transcendent statements did you find?
- 3) Do you agree or disagree with these statements? Which statements did you find confusing? Write them here:

Can you find other scriptures that can help you to identify whether the statements above reflect a human or godly perspective? Write their addresses next to the statements.

Read Ecclesiastes 4

- 1) What temporal statements did you find?
- 2) What transcendent statements did you find?
- 3) Do you agree or disagree with these statements? Which statements did you find confusing? Write them here:

Can you find other scriptures that can help you to identify whether the statements above reflect a human or godly perspective? Write their addresses next to the statements.

Read Ecclesiastes 5

- 1) What temporal statements did you find?
- 2) What transcendent statements did you find?
- 3) Do you agree or disagree with these statements? Which statements did you find confusing? Write them here:

Can you find other scriptures that can help you to identify whether the statements above reflect a human or godly perspective? Write their addresses next to the statements.

Conclusion

- 1) Discuss how the transcendent truths have helped you in your decision-making through some of the different stages of life.
- 2) Write down one or two key Transcendent Truths that will be helpful to you in your decision-making process in the future. (You may want to share these with each other as a group.)
- 3) Spend time praising God that He has provided everything we need to live a life that honors Him. Praise God for the truths that encourage your heart.