



## **ECCLESIASTES CHAPTER 2 (FACILITATOR)**

### **Discussion Starter**

- What's the greatest mistake you have ever heard of someone making or the greatest mistake you have made yourself?
- **Opening Prayer**
  - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

### **Breaking it Down**

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you must get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of, and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.
- Please use your own style, voice, and approach in preparing for leading your life group. Most importantly, take a few minutes to pray over the time together with you group and pray over each group member by name.

### **Tell the Story**

- **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

### **Read the Story (Ecclesiastes 2:1-26)**

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

### **Ecclesiastes 2:1-11**

- Notice that when Solomon is describing all that he accomplished, any mention of the Lord, His power, and His resources are simply nonexistent. What do you make of this and why is this both convicting and challenging?
  - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

- Verse 11 is one of the theme verses of the entire book of Ecclesiastes. At this point in time, why do you think the book of Ecclesiastes is in the Bible? In other words, what might God desire us to take from this book based upon what you have read and heard so far?
  - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
  
- Read what Jesus says in Luke 12:15 and Mark 8:36. Jesus is defining life and letting us know that what we have and what we see are not the most important parts of this life and the story that He has given us to live. How does what Jesus is saying coincide with what Solomon is saying?
  - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
    - How can you be a person who more fully pays attention to what matters most in this life?
      - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator
  
- Consider what it looks like for Christians to demonstrate to the world around them that life is not about possessions, roles, titles, and status. In what ways does your personal life need to be more fully transformed in order for this to happen?
  - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

**Ecclesiastes 2:12-26**

- How would you characterize verses 17-18? Uplifting, encouraging, sad, sobering, somber, challenging? Something else? Why?
  - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
  - Notice that God is still not a part of the picture of this text so far. How does this fact allow us to better understand what Solomon is saying in verses 17 & 18?
    - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

- In verses 24-26, we finally see God brought into the picture. How can we encourage each other to have a God centered focus on this life as short, brief, and chaotic as it might be?
  - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator?
  - How can we capture moments in time well to demonstrate to the world around us that it is possible to live with joy and purpose no matter what?
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### **Final Application**

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

### **Closing & Prayer Requests**

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time

Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week. (Ecclesiastes chapter 3)

## **ECCLESIASTES CHAPTER 2 (STUDENT)**

### **Ecclesiastes 2:1-11**

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  - How can you be a person who more fully pays attention to what matters most in this life?
  
- Consider what it looks like for Christians to demonstrate to the world around them that life is not about possessions, roles, titles, and status. In what ways does your personal life need to be more fully transformed in order for this to happen?

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### **Final Application**

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- What does this passage teach us about mankind?

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What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?