



ECCLESIASTES CHAPTER 7 (FACILITATOR)

Discussion Starter

- What is one of your favorite hobbies?
- How do you unwind and relax?
- **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 7:1-29)

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

Ecclesiastes 7:1-4

- What is Solomon emphasizing and underscoring in making the contrasts that he does in this passage?
 - Solomon is emphasizing and underscoring the temporary nature of things that we as human beings frequently cling to and elevate to a level of importance over and above things that matter from an eternal perspective.

- What are some things that you may be currently overemphasizing or overvaluing regarding what matters most and what doesn't?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

Ecclesiastes 7:5-13

- Notice that Solomon's emphasis in this passage is for individuals to position themselves to hear and to be patient.
 - In what ways do you intentionally position yourself to hear the counsel of God, even when it makes you feel uncomfortable or upset?
 - In what ways is seeking to be patient and/or waiting on God difficult?
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Ecclesiastes 7:14-24

- In this section of the text, Solomon is affirming that the world does contain a great deal of brokenness, dysfunction, and difficult circumstances. Why is this important to remember as a Jesus follower?
 - This is important to remember because while God loves me and His heart is for me, He doesn't just erase the difficulties of life for us and if we are honest, sometimes we have this expectation of Him, especially when we are living in ways that He has called us to live.

Ecclesiastes 6:25-29

- It is interesting to note that Solomon is recounting how he lived his life for a period of time. He sought after wisdom based upon his own experiences and by doing so discounted what God told him, especially as it pertained to his many marriages and many concubines.
 - In what ways do you allow your experiences and feelings to dictate your judgement rather than trusting God's wisdom and judgement?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

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 8)

ECCLESIASTES CHAPTER 7 (STUDENT)

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