



ECCLESIASTES CHAPTER 8 (FACILITATOR)

Discussion Starter

- What is one of your biggest strengths?
- What is one of your biggest weaknesses?
- **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 8:1-17)

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

Ecclesiastes 8:1-4

- How easy is submission for you? Explain.
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

- What does submission have to do with what Solomon is saying about keeping the King's commandment.
 - While it may be difficult to acknowledge, admit, and practice, our submission as men and women of God is a direct reflection of our submission to God, even when we may not like or agree with what is being done. We don't have to agree with things that aren't Biblical and within God's nature but we are still called to submit while also being bold and speaking the truth in love.
 - How would you encourage an individual to submit and speak the truth in love? It is important to note that the truth is referring to God's truth and not our own.
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

Ecclesiastes 8:5-9

- How do you personally practice discernment and waiting on God? Is this easy or difficult for you?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- Why is it important to practice discernment and waiting on God?
 - Solomon lets us know as the readers that regardless of how wise or gifted we are, our scope and perspective is extremely limited compared to God's.

Ecclesiastes 8:10-17

- What are some things in this world that you think are just flat out unfair and how do you navigate these things with God?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- What is Solomon's advice regarding the negative things that we see and experience in this world.
 - Solomon is not advocating that we ignore or forget about the negative things that happen in our world. Rather, he is encouraging the listener and reader to understand and see that what we behold with our physical

eyes and experience in this world isn't the entire story. There is more taking place behind the scenes and God is over it all.

- What is frustrating about this reality? What is encouraging about this reality?
 - 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 9)

ECCLESIASTES CHAPTER 8 (STUDENT)

Ecclesiastes 8:1-4

- How easy is submission for you? Explain.

- What does submission have to do with what Solomon is saying about keeping the King's commandment.
 - How would you encourage an individual to submit and speak the truth in love? It is important to note that the truth is referring to God's truth and not our own.

Ecclesiastes 8:5-9

- How do you personally practice discernment and waiting on God? Is this easy or difficult for you?

- Why is it important to practice discernment and waiting on God?

Ecclesiastes 8:10-17

- What are some things in this world that you think are just flat out unfair and how do you navigate these things with God?

- What is Solomon's advice regarding the negative things that we see and experience in this world.
 - What is frustrating about this reality? What is encouraging about this reality?

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?