



ECCLESIASTES CHAPTER 9 (FACILITATOR)

Discussion Starter

- Do you characterize yourself as a glass half full person or glass half empty person? Which do you think is better?
- **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 9:1-18)

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

Ecclesiastes 9:1-6

- What do you think the following quote means? "Death is the great equalizer."
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- How would you say that you are currently living considering the knowledge that you won't be around forever? How would you say that God calls Jesus followers

to live considering the knowledge that we won't be around forever? Read Philippians 1:21-26.

- These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
- Why do you think Solomon got to a place where he seemingly had a pessimistic view of life?
 - Solomon may have had this view because he had experienced everything that the world had to offer him and yet all of it did not fill the void within him that God did.

Ecclesiastes 9:7-10

- What is Solomon's point in this section of the text.
 - Solomon doesn't deny that death is inevitable for every human being, but his encouragement and exhortation is to live life to the fullest and live with urgency, purpose, and passion.
 - What are some barriers for you regarding living your life to the fullest with urgency, passion, and purpose?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

Ecclesiastes 9:11-18

- How does Solomon characterize human beings in this text?
 - Solomon characterizes human beings as limited. We are going to die but we don't know when and we don't have it altogether.
 - Considering your human limitations, how do you acknowledge those limitations in your relationship with God and allow Him to fill in the gaps?
 - 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 10)

ECCLESIASTES CHAPTER 9 (STUDENT)

Ecclesiastes 9:1-6

- What do you think the following quote means? “Death is the great equalizer.”

- How would you say that you are currently living considering the knowledge that you won't be around forever? How would you say that God calls Jesus followers to live considering the knowledge that we won't be around forever? Read Philippians 1:21-26.

- Why do you think Solomon got to a place where he seemingly had a pessimistic view of life?

Ecclesiastes 9:7-10

- What is Solomon's point in this section of the text.
 - What are some barriers for you regarding living your life to the fullest with urgency, passion, and purpose?

Ecclesiastes 9:11-18

- How does Solomon characterize human beings in this text?
 - Considering your human limitations, how do you acknowledge those limitations in your relationship with God and allow Him to fill in the gaps?

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?