

# LIFE IS UNPREDICTABLE AND THEN...

ECCLESIASTES 11

Life's unpredictability reminds us:

...to hold LOOSELY to worldly things, but do it WISELY.

w. 1-2

...that we cannot KNOW what God knows nor DO what God can do.

w. 3-5

...that we cannot GUARANTEE success or avoid FAILURE.

w. 6

Life's inevitable END reminds us to live FULLY and FREELY in God's light.

w.7-10

# FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. Describe a personal example of life's unpredictability; what did God teach you through this?
2. Read Ecclesiastes 11:1-2. What do you think the author means by this passage? How do we hold loosely to worldly things, but do it wisely? Read Matt. 6:19-21, Luke 12:16-21. What other passages come to mind?
3. Jesus teaches us to not hold on to life but give it away, discuss these examples: Luke 9:23-24, John 12:24-25.
4. Read Ecclesiastes 11:3-5. How does this make you feel about the unavoidable and unstoppable power of the natural world? How do we see God's hand in natural events?
5. How do we view our wisdom in light of God's wisdom? Read Isaiah 55:8-9 and Eph. 3:20-21. How does this help us see events that we do not understand? What are ways that we can equip ourselves when faced with challenging circumstances?
6. Read Ecclesiastes 11:6. When you attempt something challenging, are you more influenced by a desire for success or from fear of failure? Or can you relate to both? Jesus warns us against defensive living. Read Matt. 25:14-30. Is this parable only about money? What life lessons can we learn from this? Give modern examples.
7. Read Ecclesiastes 11:7-9. How are we to view life in context of the end? How does it make you feel when you hear we will be judged in the end? Where do you find your comfort?
8. How can we live life to the fullest? Read John 10:10 and 2 Cor. 9:6. How does this relate to the first part of the passage? What can we learn about old age when we're young? What can we remember about youthfulness when we're old?
9. Read Ecclesiastes 11:10. What does vexation mean? How do we get rid of it? Discuss how God wants us to view angst, anxiety, distress, etc. Read Matt. 11:28-30, Luke 12:22-31, Psalm 55:22, 1 Peter 5:7, Phil. 4:6.

"I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now. . . . Come further up, come further in!" — C.S. Lewis, The Last Battle