

THE SANDS OF TIME

ECCLESIASTES 11:9 – 12:7

- REJOICE in the life God has given you. 11:9

- REMOVE vexation from your heart. 11:10

- REMEMBER your CREATOR because life under the sun will come to an END. 12:1-7

FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. How is the book of Ecclesiastes like an hour glass? What are some other things that have this same effect on us?
2. Read Ecclesiastes 11:9. Why do you think Solomon connect the command to rejoice with judgment? Why is joy so serious to God?
3. **What's the difference between biblical joy and a happy mood?** Can you support this distinction from Scripture? What passages about joy in the Bible come to mind?
4. John Piper defines joy like this: "Christian joy is a good feeling in the soul, produced by the Holy Spirit, as he causes us to see the beauty of Christ in the word and in the world." How does this help us to understand the difference between happiness and joy? Do we use this distinction sometimes to neglect biblical joy?
5. What are some things you can do in your life to be more consistently joyful? Are there any specific little things that you need to rejoice in? Where do you find joy in life right now?
6. Read Ecclesiastes 11:10. In your own life, can you think of a time that you were filled with anxiety, grief, or anger in your heart? How did you handle it? What advice would you give to those who are struggling with this? Is there anything **specific that's** causing vexation in your heart right now?
7. Read the description of death in Ecclesiastes 12:2-7. How **accurate do you find this poetic description of a person's final days?** When you think about entering that stage of life, what from **God's Word** comforts you?
8. Read Ecclesiastes 12:1. How does remembering God as our Creator put life and ourselves in proper perspective? In your life, **this week, what does it look like for you to "remember your Creator?"**

"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