

Week 5 - Freedom in Submission

 Bottom Line Nothing in life will truly satisfy us apart from God.	 Goal of the lesson For students to identify a next step in what it means and looks like for them to experience joy by living well in the present and trusting God with everything else.	 Scripture <i>Ecclesiastes 9:1-10, 10:8-20, 11:7-10, & 12:9-14</i>
--	---	---

???

Small Group Questions

- **Read Ecclesiastes 9:1-10**
 - If you found out today that you only had a week to live, what would you do? What things would you prioritize? What would you want to see? Where would you visit? Who would you want to have a conversation with?
 - Solomon figures out that the purpose of life isn't to do and see amazing things—though that's great—but to fully enjoy the moment we're in and the people we're with. In what ways do you find it difficult to enjoy the moment and be fully present? What are the barriers that tend to stand in your way? What could you do to treat the enjoyment of the present moment as a bucket list item?
 - How do you think our trust in God and handing over control to Him help us experience that kind of joy?
- **Read Ecclesiastes 10:8-20** – It's not enough to live in the moment, but how we live in the moment and the words that come out of our mouths matters too.
 - How do our words indicate whether we're wise or not? If you spent a day listening to and recording all the words that you spoke, what do you think you would discover? Would your words be words of wisdom or foolishness?
- **Read Ecclesiastes 11:7-10** – In some ways, these verses are the sum of what Solomon has learned about life. There is a lot of meaninglessness in life, therefore, we should enjoy the life God has given us and submit to his ways.
 - What part of your life do you find most difficult to surrender to God? To what extent do you still tend to do what you want instead of what God wants? What could you do to view surrender as an act of worship?
- **Read Ecclesiastes 12:9-14**
 - Solomon wrote in verse 11, "The words of the wise are like cattle-prods," something a shepherd would use to guide and care for his flock. How do the words of the wise guide and care for us? When you need wisdom in your life, whose words do you lean on most for guidance?
 - Do you run to God's Word when you need guidance? Why, or why not? When was the last time God used his Word to guide you?

Closing Activity



Take prayer requests and pray in your small groups.