

Life that's >You: Week 6

May 3, 2020

Ecclesiastes 12

Warming Up

1. Have your group each share something that they don't enjoy as much now as they did earlier in life. Have them share something they enjoy more now than they did earlier in life. Why do you think these things have changed?

Knowing the Gospel...

2. Read these verses (Ecc. 2:24-26, 3:12, 5:18-20, 9:7, 11:8-10) and discuss this question: How has God described the life of faith throughout this book?

3. Read through all the metaphors for a declining life in 12:2-6. What do you think each one is referring to? How have you seen some of these play out in people you know? In your own life? (See also 2 Sam. 19:35)

4. What physical limitations and deteriorations are you most looking forward to having be redeemed and restored when you receive a new physical body in the new heaven and new earth? Read 1 Cor. 15:35-58. How should the promise of a new, resurrection body motivate us in our Christian life and walk with God now? (v.58)

Living the Gospel...

5. What are some specific ways you can "...remember your Creator" (recognize our dependence on him and commit ourselves in obedience to him)...while you still have the energy, physical health, and mental capacity to do so?

6. How are the words of the Preacher described in 12:11? What do you think is the purpose behind all of the wisdom he has shared? What is his desired outcome for his listeners? How has our study in Ecclesiastes challenged you to action in some way? Share with your group a time when wise words from Scripture have been a goad or a nail in your life.

7. Read Eccl. 12:9-14. How do you think these verses help us understand the intentions and overall message of the book of Ecclesiastes? (ie. Was the author just portraying a negative, pessimistic view of life? Was he confused about life?) Explain. How is 12:12-14 a fitting conclusion to this book?

Telling the Gospel...

8. If a non-believer mentioned something to you in a conversation this week about how uncertain the world is right now what would you say? How could you direct them to God and the gospel? What if they asked you specifically, "How do you deal with all this uncertainty?"

Next Week: We are beginning a new series. I will let you know as soon as I can!