

Tips and Tricks:

The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through and others will be over in a few seconds.

1. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was just preached. Just ask the questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Don't forget to laugh and crack up. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our ministry. Remember: We have to build a relational bridge strong enough to hold the truth!

Agenda for Group Time

1. Ice Breaker - Lighthearted ice breaker question (10 minutes)
2. Discussion - Bible study, sharing and application. (25 Minutes)
3. Prayer - Pray together (5 minutes)
4. Planning - Remember to talk about what's coming up.

Icebreaker

Question: Have you ever made a promise you couldn't keep? What happened?

Read Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

Quick to Listen

Question: Why do you think Solomon emphasizes "listening"?

- He was looking for something difficult for people to do.
- He was talking and he wanted people to listen.
- He's directing people to listen to God and His Word.
- One way to honor people is by listening.
- Other: _____

Question: What might it look like to "guard your steps" when you enter God's presence for worship (v.1)?

Question: What can distract us from truly listening to God during worship or personal time with Him?

- My phone
- My thoughts
- My anxiety
- My spouse
- My kids
- All of the above
- Other: _____

Question: Have you ever found yourself "hearing" God without really listening? What does that look like in your life?

Question: What are some practical ways we can "draw near to listen" in our daily lives, particularly when we approach God in prayer or worship?

Slow to Speak

Question: What does Solomon mean when he says, "Be not rash with your mouth" (v.2)? How does this relate to our communication with God and others?

Question: Why do you think God cares so much about the promises or vows we make (v.4-5)? Can you think of a time when you made a promise to God, but didn't follow through?

Question: In what areas of life are we most likely to make rash promises?

- Crisis
- In prayer
- In haste
- When I want my team to win the big game.
- Other: _____

Question: What does it mean to "fear God" (v.7) in the context of our words and actions? How does this fear help us live wisely?

Work It Out!

Question: Do you tend to be more "quick to speak" or "quick to listen"? Why?

Question: In light of this passage, how can we better align our words with our hearts, especially in our prayers and worship?

How can we be more intentional about listening to God in our day-to-day lives (e.g., during Bible reading, prayer, or even in conversations with others)?

One thing I'll do differently because of this sermon:
