

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: If you could attend any historical figure's funeral and hear people share stories about their life, whose funeral would you choose and why?

My feelings about attending a funeral:

- Avoid
- I attend out of duty.
- They make me sad.
- I feel awkward and don't know what to say.
- Other: _____

Read Ecclesiastes 6:10-7:14

Who Knows what is Good?

Solomon suggests that the "day of death is better than the day of birth" and that "the house of mourning is better than the house of feasting." (vv1-4)

Why do you think he makes this claim?

Have you ever experienced a moment of clarity or growth after a difficult loss or challenge?

Solomon emphasizes that funerals and mourning help us reflect on our lives and character. Why is it that we often fail to think deeply about our lives during times of celebration or prosperity?

How can we better cultivate this type of reflection in our daily lives?

- Read more
- Less screen time
- Actively pursue times for reflection
- Journal
- Think about my life and how I'm living
- Attend a funeral
- Other: _____

Verses 6-13 are a series of proverbs. Is there a proverb here that is a help to you in a current situation you are dealing with in your life?

Who Can Tell What Will Be?

Solomon reflects on the futility of trying to control or predict the future. (vv 10-12)
How does this challenge your approach to life planning?

- I can stop thinking about the future.
- YOLO sounds good.
- It is still wise to plan for the future.
- I can plan more than I do.
- I can plan a little less than I do.
- Other: _____

Solomon acknowledges that we cannot "straighten" what is crooked (vs 13) . How does this shape your understanding of suffering, injustice, and the brokenness in the world?

How does this truth make you feel?

- It makes me think I shouldn't try to help.
- It bums me out.
- It makes me think about when God will straighten what is crooked.
- I need to stop thinking I can fix everything.
- Other: _____

Solomon advises us to be joyful in prosperity and to consider God in adversity because that both come from Him (vs 14).

How do you respond to the highs and lows of life? How does this perspective change how you view your circumstances?

Work It Out!

The sermon concludes by pointing to the hope we have in Christ, who makes the crooked things straight and offers us the opportunity for new life. How does the resurrection of Jesus give you hope in the midst of life's uncertainties and struggles?

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