

### 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 instantly gain one of the following skills without any effort, which would you choose?

- New language
- Musical instrument
- Cooking
- Pickleball
- The ability to remember everything I read.
- Video games
- Binge more TV
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Read Ecclesiastes 9:13–10:20

#### The Problems with Folly

What does the story of the poor wise man (Ecclesiastes 9:13–15) teach us about wisdom?

- Wisdom is always rewarded and remembered.
- Wisdom can be effective even when the person is overlooked or forgotten.
- Strength and power are always more valuable than wisdom.
- The story is about luck, not wisdom.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Question: How does the author compare and contrast wisdom and folly?

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Question: How do you tend to respond to angry people in your life? (Ecc 10:4)

- Avoid them
- Talk about them behind their back
- Stand up for myself
- I'm learning to give a gentle answer
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Question: What are some things you can do to develop a sense of calm in stressful situations?

- Develop a prayer life
- Exercise
- Play
- Time in God's Word
- Spend time outside
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Question: Can you think of a time in your life when a calm word helped a stressful situation?

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### **The Blessings of Wisdom**

What is one way that wisdom helps in everyday life, according to Ecclesiastes 10:10?

- Wisdom allows people to avoid all hardships in life.
- Wisdom tends to make life a go a bit smoother.
- A wise leader brings flourishing.
- Wisdom brings success.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

How does Ecclesiastes 10:20 warn us about our words?

- Private words can be exposed.
- Criticizing leaders and rulers is OK, but you need to make sure its done in secret.
- Its better to keep quiet.
- Words spoken in secret are never revealed.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Question: How does wise leadership bless a nation or community? How does foolish leadership bring harm?

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Solomon describes good leadership as disciplined and self-controlled (verse 17). How can we apply this principle in our own lives, whether in leadership roles or personal responsibility?

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Question: What practical steps can we take to grow in wisdom and avoid foolishness in our daily interactions?

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### **Work It Out!**

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

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