



WEEK 2 DISCUSSION GUIDE  
ECCLESIASTES 7  
(SUNDAY AM SERIES PART 6: "PERSPECTIVE")

(1) Catch-Up/Highs & Lows

(2) Choose a student to pray for the small group discussion.

(3) Review

- **What is Ecclesiastes about?** *Whatever stage of life you are in, everyone wants a fulfilled life without regrets. The question is: how do we get there? Meet Solomon, son of David, king of Israel, and the preacher of Ecclesiastes. He pursued every pleasure, fulfilled every passion, and took advantage of every opportunity to find meaning in life and to deal with the hard questions we all face. This is what he found.*

(4) Bible Study: Ecclesiastes 7 (see the specific questions for the outline of these verses: verses 1-4, 5-6, 8 and 14, 26; verses 15-18, 20, 29)

- *Choose a student to read the verses out loud or have them all read the passage quietly to themselves. (Choose which questions work best for your group.)*
- **The 6 Bible Study Questions:**
  - (1) What does this passage teach us about God?
  - (2) What does this passage teach us about people?
  - (3) Is there something in this passage that points us to Jesus?
  - (4) How does this passage apply to the Christian life in general and your life specifically?
  - (5) Who is someone I can share this with?
  - (6) What are other passages that correlate to this one?
- **Specific Questions:**
  - We live in a world that can be unpredictable and confusing. What are some examples of this in your own life or the world today?
  - In an unpredictable and confusing world, we often respond by *escapism* (trying to distract ourselves and deny these things, or by trying to control our lives and relationships) and by *performance* (trying to prove ourselves and achieve our own worth by the things we do and accomplish in the eyes of others). Which one of

these 2 things stands out to you and where do you see that in your life or the world today?

- Solomon offers an alternative: to live by *wisdom* instead of *escapism* and to live by *grace* instead of *performance* (leader note: we learn about living by grace in that the rest of the Bible answers questions that Solomon asks in Ecclesiastes as we will see below)
- 4 principles to live by wisdom: What is the wisdom principle in each verse below? Which one relates to your life and life in high school the most right now?
  - Verses 1-4: Inside character over outside appearance
  - Verses 5-6: Godly instruction over foolish influences
  - Verses 8 and 14: Patience over impatience
  - Verse 26: Love over lust
- Specifically in the area of *patience over impatience*, it can be hard to trust God when things around us aren't going how we want them to. How might Romans 8:28 and Mark 4:35-41 encourage us that even when life is not predictable, God is always faithful? How has God used chaos in your life to bring you closer to Him?
- In verses 15-18, Solomon encourages people to not be self-righteous and to avoid wickedness. What does this mean? How does the parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15 show us both an example of self-righteousness and wickedness? Which son do you relate to more?
- In verses 20 and 29, Solomon observes a problem with his admonition above: that nobody is perfectly righteous. He does not solve the problem in Ecclesiastes, but the rest of the Bible does offer a solution. How does Romans 8:1-4 solve this problem? *God's grace forgives us and changes our hearts.*
- Where do you struggle to live by performance instead of God's grace? How would remembering God's grace this week help you in that are?
- Do you believe that God is pleased with you right now and sees you as righteous right now, not because of how good or bad you're doing, but because of His grace for you in Jesus? If you let that soak that in, what effect would that have on you?
- **The gospel in Ecclesiastes:** As we said earlier, remember that the rest of the Bible answers some of the questions that Solomon asks in Ecclesiastes. He notes that both self-righteousness and wickedness are bad, but then observes that nobody in the world is truly righteous. The rest of the Bible agrees, like in Romans 3:10. The good news is that a little bit later in Romans, Paul tells us that God Himself provides the solution. Check out Romans 3:23-24. Jesus is the only solution to the problem that Solomon saw in Ecclesiastes 7. He alone can forgive us fully and change our hearts.
- **Memory Verse/Main Verses:** Ecclesiastes 7:13-14, 20, 29

(5) Prayer requests and/or choose a student to close in prayer.