



WEEK 3 DISCUSSION GUIDE  
ECCLESIASTES 9  
(SUNDAY AM SERIES PART 8: "A Deeper Country")

(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 9:1-12

- *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:**
  - Try to explain the message of Ecclesiastes in your own words.
  - Verses 1-6: What is the one thing that Solomon says is certain for every person? What is your reaction to this? How do people respond to the reality of death?
  - If our lives on earth are finite, what impact should this have on our goals and aspirations?
  - Verses 11-12: What are some things in life that are not certain?
  - What certainties do you rely on in your day-to-day life? What strategies do you and people around you use to try to control the uncertainties of life?

- Verses 7-10: What in life truly matters?
  - *Enjoy what God has given you; practice His presence in the ordinary; cultivate the relationships He's given you with Himself and His people*
- What does it look like to practice the presence of God in the ordinary?
- What about your “lot” annoys, bores, or pains you right now? What about your “lot” is beautiful and good and you’re thankful for?
- What is the difference between *enjoying* God’s good gifts and *worshipping* God’s good gifts?
- How do death, uncertainty, and sadness make us “homesick for heaven”? How about God’s good gifts?
- How does the statement “for God has already approved what you do” in verse 7 point us to the gospel? What is the difference between living *from* God’s approval and living *for* God’s approval? What effect would it have on you to realize that because of the gospel, Christians live under the smile of God, not His frown?
- Some other related passages to consider reading: Psalm 139:16; James 4:12-15; Hebrews 9:27-28; Psalm 27:4; 1 John 4:19
- **The gospel in Ecclesiastes:** Death is a consequence of sin entering the world. However, because Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, He defeated death, and His people will one day be resurrected to live with Him in everlasting joy. We will all face God’s judgment, but because of Jesus, the judgment day of the Christian has been moved from the future to the past.
- **Memory Verse/Main Verses:** Ecclesiastes 9:7; Hebrews 9:27-28

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