

Chasing the Wind - A Study of Ecclesiastes Discussion Guide: Week 5 - Ecclesiastes 4:1-16

Summary of this week's teaching: At first glance this chapter seems to cover an assortment of unrelated topics. However, upon closer inspection we see that each topic ties into a larger theme- that of relationships. Beginning with the large societal relationship between the oppressed and their oppressors, the Preacher works his way down relationships between two and three people. Although His view is strictly "under the sun," even Solomon must admit that there are many redeeming aspects of being in healthy relationships with others. The person who is to be most pitied is the lonesome individual.

Connect: Relational questions to get conversations started.

1. Who was your best friend growing up? What qualities or characteristics made them so lovable?

Seed: The Bible, God's inspired Word, is very much like a seed- it contains everything we need to experience life. Please read the following passages of scripture as a group: (perhaps in two different translations) Ecclesiastes 4:1-16, Romans 15:1-7, and 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15.

1. What relationship-related lessons does Ecclesiastes 4 teach us?
2. How do the Romans 15 and 1 Thessalonians 5 passages build upon these lessons?
3. What other things from these passages stick out to you?

Roots: Like subterranean tree roots which extend in all directions searching out water, each believer needs to grow and develop spiritual roots that allow us to make personal connections with our God.

1. As you grow in your connection to the Lord, what qualities and/or characteristics of God make Him so lovable to you?
2. Are there other aspects of God's nature and character that you want to personally connect with or experience? If so, what can you do to connect with God in these areas?

Trunk: Without trunks, plants may be large, useful, and beautiful but they are not trees. The same is true for our faith - without it we are not saved and cannot please God. These questions will help us grow our faith in Him.

1. In the context of relationships, does God call us to do anything that He has not already done to/for us? How does this challenge or encourage your faith?

Crown: Crowns are the glory of a tree; the culmination of the roots and trunk working in harmony and can be seen for miles around. The crown of a tree represents the visible portion of our faithlife. These questions will encourage us to apply these principles into our everyday lives.

1. Reconsider the Romans 15 and 1 Thessalonians 5 passages. What are 2-3 specific ways that you can walk in obedience to these relational principles this week?

