

Chasing the Wind - A Study of Ecclesiastes Discussion Guide: Week 7 - Ecclesiastes 5:8-6:12

Summary of this week's teaching: This week's passage is challenging. Solomon continues to fall deeper into the darkness of a life lived strictly under the sun. In these verses Solomon bitterly complains that worldly things fail to bring real and lasting satisfaction to his soul. Although he correctly describes such a life as grievous evil, toil, darkness, and vexation, we see no signs of Solomon turning his heart back to the Lord. Like many of the previous weeks, this passage carries a clear warning - do not look to the things of this world to bring satisfaction to your soul.

Connect: Relational questions to get conversations started.

1. What is your favorite food and why?

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 passage of scripture as a group: (perhaps in two different translations) Ecclesiastes 5:8-6:12.

1. What constructive wisdom is offered in this passage of Ecclesiastes?
2. What incorrect conclusions does Solomon make?

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. How have you connected to Jesus this week?
2. What is God currently teaching you/doing in your life?

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. Please read Matthew 6:19-34 and 1 Timothy 6:17-19. How do these passages stand in contrast to Solomon's teachings in this week's passage?
2. What do these passages teach us about our faith?
3. What do they command us to do?
4. The 1 Timothy 6 passage ends with the hope that believers "may take hold of that which is truly life." What does that mean, and does it happen?

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. In this week's passage, Solomon complains several times that worldly things cannot satisfy human souls. What "under the sun" things are you tempted to find ultimate satisfaction in? How do you combat these self-destructive urges?

