CHASING THE WIND
ECCLESIASTES

Chasing the Wind - A Study of Ecclesiastes
Discussion Guide: Week 8 - Ecclesiastes 7:1-29

Summary of this week's teaching: One of our elders, Jake Rider, shared this week's message out of Ecclesiastes 7. This is another chapter where Solomon primarily communicates through numerous proverbs. Many of these elevate death over life, sorrow over joy. In contrast to Solomon's gloomy pronouncements, the New Covenant helps us to see that God uses the hardships of life to grow our faith and to bring Him glory. With Christ, even our sorrows can be redeemed. This abundant life is found only in Jesus Christ. Because of His death and resurrection, we no longer need to fear physical death or anything else in this life.

Connect: Relational questions to get conversations started.

1. What was the toughest part of your week, and why? Was there any resolution?

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 7.

1. What constructive wisdom is offered in Ecclesiastes 7?
2. What incomplete and/or incorrect conclusions does Solomon make?
3. What does the New Testament have to say about such matters? (please use specific scriptural references, and not vague generalizations)

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. What thoughts or activities do you turn to when you're stressed, sorrowful, and disappointed? Do these things ever bring peace to your soul?
2. Why do we so often attempt to engage in unhealthy, unhelpful behaviors instead of personally connecting with our God during trouble?
3. How have you connected with Him this week?

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 James 1:2-4. Most Christians can quote or paraphrase James 1:2. Why is it critical to know and understand the rest of the passage, and how does this shape our faith?
2. In what ways do you see the Lord growing your faith during this season of life?

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. Please read James 3:13-18. How does this passage contrast to Ecclesiastes 7? By the Spirit's help, what would it look like for you to live this out this week?

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