

## Chasing the Wind - A Study of Ecclesiastes Discussion Guide: Week 10 - Ecclesiastes 9:1-18

**Summary of this week's teaching:** This week's installment of Ecclesiastes focuses on the certainty of death and the uncertainty of life. In Ecclesiastes 9, Solomon used the term "under the sun" six times, more than any other chapter in this highly encouraging book. Since Solomon had ruled out any hope of the afterlife, all that remained for him was a fearful expectation of death. While King Solomon correctly identified that all people (whether good or bad) face death, he incorrectly concluded that physical death is the end of our existence. Praise God that through faith in Jesus we no longer have to live in fear of our physical death! "Whoever believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26)

**Connect:** Relational questions to get conversations started.

1. What was your favorite pet, and why? How long did they live?

**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 9, John 11:25-26, and 1 Corinthians 15:35-58.

1. What constructive wisdom is offered in Ecclesiastes 9?
2. What incomplete and/or incorrect conclusions does Solomon make?
3. "I am the resurrection and the life." What do these words mean to you?
4. How does the 1 Corinthians 15 passage address the issues raised in Ecclesiastes 9?

**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 experienced the resurrection life of Christ this week?
2. What do these passages teach us about God's nature and his posture toward us?

**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. Do you struggle with a fearful expectation of death? How can the gospel exchange such fears with faith?
2. How does the 1 Corinthians 15 passage 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. Please read Philippians 1:21-26. What does it mean when Paul says, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." What would your life look like if you whole-heartedly adopted this attitude in life?

