



## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE



### ECCLESIASTES 1:1-11; 12:8-14

Read this week's passage aloud before discussing together.

#### OBSERVATION

1. What are your personal observations about the passage?
  - What sticks out to you (words, phrases, concepts, themes)?
  - Why do these things stick out to you?
  - Does it remind you of other Bible passages?
2. Examine the context of the passage:
  - What's happening in the book before and after the passage?
  - What's going on in history at the time of the passage?
  - What type of literature or genre is the passage?
3. What was one of your main takeaways from Sunday's sermon?

#### INTERPRETATION

4. What questions does this passage raise for you?
5. What does "there is nothing new under the sun" mean (Eccles. 1:9)? Is it okay for Christians to display the type of cynicism that appears in Ecclesiastes 1? Why or why not?

#### APPLICATION

6. How should you apply this passage to your life? Consider how it applies to your thoughts, attitudes, habits, decisions, relationship with God, and relationships with others.
7. How are you doing at the command to "fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man" (Eccles. 12:13)? Where are you caught up in striving for earthly purposes and desires?

#### FURTHER RESOURCES

Commentary: [Ecclesiastes: Why Everything Matters](#) by Philip Graham Ryken

Article: "[Philip Ryken on the Counterintuitive Blessing of Ecclesiastes](#)" by Ivan Mesa

[Children's Ministries Family Devotional](#)



## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE



# ECCLESIASTES 1:12-2:26

Read this week's passage aloud before discussing together.

### OBSERVATION

1. What are your personal observations about the passage?
  - What sticks out to you (words, phrases, concepts, themes)?
  - Why do these things stick out to you?
  - Does it remind you of other Bible passages?
2. Examine the context of the passage:
  - What's happening in the book before and after the passage?
  - What's going on in history at the time of the passage?
  - What type of literature or genre is the passage?
3. What was one of your main takeaways from Sunday's sermon?

### INTERPRETATION

4. What questions does this passage raise for you?
5. What does it mean that "in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow" (Eccles. 1:18)? Have you ever wanted to figure out an aspect of life (e.g. a job, marriage, parenting, etc.) and then felt discouraged or dissatisfied once you did?

### APPLICATION

6. How should you apply this passage to your life? Consider how it applies to your thoughts, attitudes, habits, decisions, relationship with God, and relationships with others.
7. What are you tempted to find your deepest satisfaction in? Do you seek to find it in pleasure/laughter (2:1-3), work (2:4-6), possessions (2:7), money (2:8), or fame (2:9)? Share how you've sought after satisfaction and what the result has been (thus far).

### FURTHER RESOURCES

Commentary: [Ecclesiastes: Why Everything Matters](#) by Philip Graham Ryken

Article: ["The Ancient Book for Anxious Moderns"](#) by Matt Francisco

[Children's Ministries Family Devotional](#)



# SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE ECCLESIASTES 3



Read this week's passage aloud before discussing together.

## OBSERVATION

1. What are your personal observations about the passage?
  - What sticks out to you (words, phrases, concepts, themes)?
  - Why do these things stick out to you?
  - Does it remind you of other Bible passages?
2. Examine the context of the passage:
  - What's happening in the book before and after the passage?
  - What's going on in history at the time of the passage?
  - What type of literature or genre is the passage?
3. What was one of your main takeaways from Sunday's sermon?

## INTERPRETATION

4. What questions does this passage raise for you?
5. What does it mean that there is "a time for every matter" (Eccles. 3:1)?

## APPLICATION

6. How should you apply this passage to your life? Consider how it applies to your thoughts, attitudes, habits, decisions, relationship with God, and relationships with others.
7. Is your focus on the activities of people (including yourself and your family) or on God's works which endure forever (Eccles. 3:14)? What works of God do you need to remember (and even praise God for) this week?

## FURTHER RESOURCES

Commentary: [Ecclesiastes: Why Everything Matters](#) by Philip Graham Ryken

Prayer: ["The Daily-ness of God's Awesomeness"](#) by Scotty Smith

[Children's Ministries Family Devotional](#)



# SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE ECCLESIASTES 4-6



Read this week's passage aloud before discussing together.

## OBSERVATION

1. What are your personal observations about the passage?
  - What sticks out to you (words, phrases, concepts, themes)?
  - Why do these things stick out to you?
  - Does it remind you of other Bible passages?
2. Examine the context of the passage:
  - What's happening in the book before and after the passage?
  - What's going on in history at the time of the passage?
  - What type of literature or genre is the passage?
3. What was one of your main takeaways from Sunday's sermon?

## INTERPRETATION

4. What questions does this passage raise for you?
5. Do you think people experience oppression on the earth (Eccles. 4:1; 5:8)? Where might oppression occur today?

## APPLICATION

6. How should you apply this passage to your life? Consider how it applies to your thoughts, attitudes, habits, decisions, relationship with God, and relationships with others.
7. Do you ever feel tempted to be rash in how you talk to God (Eccles. 5:2)? How can you "let your words be few" this week in how you approach God and his sovereignty in your life and in the world around you?

## FURTHER RESOURCES

Commentary: [Ecclesiastes: Why Everything Matters](#) by Philip Graham Ryken

Prayer: ["Friendship, Getting Older, and No Need to be Impressive"](#) by Scotty Smith

[Children's Ministries Family Devotional](#)

SERMON  
DISCUSSION GUIDE  
ECCLESIASTES 7

JUL. 17  
2022

Read this week's passage aloud before discussing together.

### OBSERVATION

1. What are your personal observations about the passage?
  - What sticks out to you (words, phrases, concepts, themes)?
  - Why do these things stick out to you?
  - Does it remind you of other Bible passages?
2. Examine the context of the passage:
  - What's happening in the book before and after the passage?
  - What's going on in history at the time of the passage?
  - What type of literature or genre is the passage?
3. What was one of your main takeaways from Sunday's sermon?

### INTERPRETATION

4. What questions does this passage raise for you?
5. What does it mean that "it is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting" (Eccles. 7:2)?

### APPLICATION

6. How should you apply this passage to your life? Consider how it applies to your thoughts, attitudes, habits, decisions, relationship with God, and relationships with others.
7. What is your level of sobriety about life right now? Have you recently considered "the end of all mankind" and laid it to heart (Eccles. 7:2)? Do you need to do that this week?

### FURTHER RESOURCES

Commentary: [Ecclesiastes: Why Everything Matters](#) by Philip Graham Ryken

Article: ["Why Funerals are Better Than Feasts"](#) by Matt McCullough

[Children's Ministries Family Devotional](#)



# SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE ECCLESIASTES 8-9

JUL. 24  
2022

Read this week's passage aloud before discussing together.

## OBSERVATION

1. What are your personal observations about the passage?
  - What sticks out to you (words, phrases, concepts, themes)?
  - Why do these things stick out to you?
  - Does it remind you of other Bible passages?
2. Examine the context of the passage:
  - What's happening in the book before and after the passage?
  - What's going on in history at the time of the passage?
  - What type of literature or genre is the passage?
3. What was one of your main takeaways from Sunday's sermon?

## INTERPRETATION

4. What questions does this passage raise for you?
5. Why is it important for "the living [to] know that they will die" (Eccles. 9:5)? Why is this an important and helpful reality to be aware of?

## APPLICATION

6. How should you apply this passage to your life? Consider how it applies to your thoughts, attitudes, habits, decisions, relationship with God, and relationships with others.
7. Are you enjoying the gifts God has given you in this life (cf. Eccles. 9:7-10)? Is there something that you should enjoy more this week, realizing that it is a gift from God while you live?

## FURTHER RESOURCES

Commentary: [Ecclesiastes: Why Everything Matters](#) by Philip Graham Ryken

Article: ["Ecclesiastes 9: Time and Chance, and Why We Can't Always Get What We Want"](#) by

David Robertson

[Children's Ministries Family Devotional](#)



# SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE ECCLESIASTES 10-11



Read this week's passage aloud before discussing together.

## OBSERVATION

1. What are your personal observations about the passage?
  - What sticks out to you (words, phrases, concepts, themes)?
  - Why do these things stick out to you?
  - Does it remind you of other Bible passages?
2. Examine the context of the passage:
  - What's happening in the book before and after the passage?
  - What's going on in history at the time of the passage?
  - What type of literature or genre is the passage?
3. What was one of your main takeaways from Sunday's sermon?

## INTERPRETATION

4. What questions does this passage raise for you?
5. How does the Christian keep both rejoicing and judgment in view in their life (Eccles. 11:9)? Is this difficult to do well?

## APPLICATION

6. How should you apply this passage to your life? Consider how it applies to your thoughts, attitudes, habits, decisions, relationship with God, and relationships with others.
7. Are you taking practical steps of wisdom in your life right now, even though life is unpredictable? Is there an area where you need to apply some practical steps of wisdom this week such as filtering your emotions (Eccles. 10:4) or your finances (Eccles. 11:2)?

## FURTHER RESOURCES

Commentary: [Ecclesiastes: Why Everything Matters](#) by Philip Graham Ryken

Video: "[Reading Between the Lines 137 – Cast Your Bread Upon the Waters](#)" by Speak Life  
[Children's Ministries Family Devotional](#)



# SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE ECCLESIASTES 12



Read this week's passage aloud before discussing together.

## OBSERVATION

1. What are your personal observations about the passage?
  - What sticks out to you (words, phrases, concepts, themes)?
  - Why do these things stick out to you?
  - Does it remind you of other Bible passages?
2. Examine the context of the passage:
  - What's happening in the book before and after the passage?
  - What's going on in history at the time of the passage?
  - What type of literature or genre is the passage?
3. What was one of your main takeaways from Sunday's sermon?

## INTERPRETATION

4. What questions does this passage raise for you?
5. What does it mean to "Remember. . . your Creator" (Eccles. 12:1)? Can a Christian live in a way that doesn't do this?

## APPLICATION

6. How should you apply this passage to your life? Consider how it applies to your thoughts, attitudes, habits, decisions, relationship with God, and relationships with others.
7. How are you doing at your duty of fearing God and keeping his commandments (Eccles. 12:13)?  
What is one way that you can demonstrate that you fear God this week?

## FURTHER RESOURCES

Commentary: [Ecclesiastes: Why Everything Matters](#) by Philip Graham Ryken

Video: "[Overview: Ecclesiastes](#)" by BibleProject

[Children's Ministries Family Devotional](#)