

XXXIX

THE OLD TESTAMENT

Leader Conversation Guide – XXXIX: Ecclesiastes

Main Idea

Ecclesiastes is one of the most honest and raw books of the Bible. Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, looks at life “under the sun” and wrestles with its meaning. He describes the frustration, weariness, and emptiness that come when we chase after purpose in the wrong places. Without God, life feels pointless—like chasing the wind. But woven through his struggle is a greater truth: God has placed eternity in our hearts, and real meaning is only found in Him.

This week’s message reminded us that while life can feel confusing or fleeting, God has given us the gift of joy, confidence, and reverence when we keep Him at the center. He is good, so we can live joyfully. He is sovereign, so we can live confidently. He is holy, so we can live reverently. The key to enjoying this life is realizing that this life is not about this life—it’s about Him.

As we begin our discussion, let’s open our hearts to what God is teaching us through Solomon’s journey. May we learn to find true purpose, not in temporary pursuits, but in living each day anchored in the goodness and presence of God.

**That’s the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion:
Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone’s duty.**

ECCLESIASTES 12:13

Make it Practical:

Without God, life feels empty and meaningless.

- “Vanity of vanities... all is vanity.” (Ecclesiastes 1:2; 1:14)

True joy comes when we see life as a gift from God.

- “So I concluded there is nothing better than to be happy and enjoy ourselves as long as we can... for these are gifts from God.” (Ecclesiastes 3:12–13; 2:24)

The key to life is keeping God at the center.

- “Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone’s duty.” (Ecclesiastes 12:13)

Talk About It

- Ecclesiastes shows us that even Solomon, with all his wisdom, wealth, and success, still wrestled with feelings of emptiness. What does this teach us about the limits of human achievement, and how does it challenge the way our culture defines success?
- Ecclesiastes 3:11 says God has “set eternity in the human heart.” How have you seen this ‘longing for something more’ show up in your own life or in the world around you?
- Solomon eventually recognized that life is a gift to be lived with joy and reverence before God. What are some practical ways you can cultivate joy in ordinary moments, even when life feels repetitive or difficult?

**The key to enjoying this life is to realize
this life is not about this life.**

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for reminding us through Your Word that true meaning and joy are only found in You. Help us not to chase after things that leave us empty, but to live each day with gratitude, confidence, and reverence for who You are. Teach us to number our days, to find joy in Your daily gifts, and to keep You at the center of our lives. We trust You with our future and commit to walk in obedience to Your ways. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Next Steps

- Shift your focus from achievements to gratitude. Take time each day this week to thank God for the simple gifts of food, work, relationships, and rest, recognizing them as His blessings.
- Practice living with eternity in mind. Reflect on areas where you may be chasing temporary satisfaction, and ask God to help you realign your priorities with what lasts forever.
- Choose joy in the ordinary. Intentionally slow down to enjoy everyday moments—whether it’s a meal, a conversation, or quiet time with God—and celebrate them as part of His good design.