

HOW TO LIVE IN LIGHT OF DEATH

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ECCLESIASTES 12:1-8

Introduction

1. The Evil Days Ahead

2. Industry for Others

3. Enjoyment Under God

- Rejoice
- Remove
- Remember

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

1. Have you ever Googled yourself? What do you find when you do?
2. What about Dr. O'Donnell's message was interesting to you? What were some of your takeaways?
3. Was there anything Dr. O'Donnell said that was new to you? Confusing? Different from what you've heard before?
4. Take a few minutes to watch the Ecclesiastes video from the Bible Project. (Note: There are two Ecclesiastes videos on the Bible Project. They are both good, but start with the one in "The Wisdom Series." It's the one with the guy smoking the pipe.)
5. Read Ecclesiastes 9:7-12:14. As you do, each person should mark in their own passage or on paper any observations they see. Look for repeating words/ideas, truths about God, and things that are striking. You may want to give people a minute to read the passage in silence to make their notes. After you do, have people share the things they observed and why they found them interesting.
6. Read Ecclesiastes 12:1-7. Find as many references to aging, physical decline, and death as possible. Are there any images you find particularly striking?
7. What does it mean when Ecclesiastes uses the term "meaningless" (Ecclesiastes 12:8, see also 1:2)? What did Dr. O'Donnell say it meant? Why would Ecclesiastes say "everything is meaningless"?
8. Why is it beneficial to take an honest look at the reality of death and the fleetingness of life?
9. Look at verses 11:9-10 and 12:1. What does it say we should do when we realize that life is fleeting? How is that different from what you might expect?
10. At the end of life, people reflect on the things they have done. What kinds of things do they typically wish they focused on more? What kinds of things do they typically wish they had focused less on? What can you do this week to focus a little more on the things you'll care about at the end of your life?

PRAYER PROMPT: Ecclesiastes 11:9-10 emphasize enjoying the life God has given you while you can. Take some time to go around the group and thank God for the good, ordinary pleasures he has put in your life. Go around the circle several times so each person can say multiple things. You only need to say a sentence or two about each item, so don't feel pressure to make it long. Also, don't slip in requests during this time. Just express gratitude.