

SERIES OVERVIEW

In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon sets out to discover if “life under the sun” is truly worth living. He goes on a journey throughout the book and finds himself originally declaring that everything under the sun is meaningless (Hebrew. Hebel—literally translated, vapor or breath. Used 38 times in this book). Solomon is overwhelmed with the truth that death is coming for every person, and that nothing worked for, earned, or pursued seems to have any lasting value. It’s not until Solomon starts focusing his attention on things “beyond the sun” that he recognizes life’s true meaning and purpose. He ultimately discovers that the whole purpose of man is to enjoy life and all its blessings, to live by faith, and to prepare for eternity by fearing God and keeping his commandments.

- [Watch Overview](#) (Watch as a group)

CONTEXT

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted. God has made everything beautiful in its time, and He has put eternity into man's heart. We are called to rejoice in our work and recognize God's sovereignty over time and events.

THE BIG IDEA

Life is full of ups and downs, but God will make everything beautiful in its time.

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: 2 a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; 3 a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; 4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; 5 a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; 6 a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; 7 a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; 8 a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. 9 What gain has the worker from his toil? 10 I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. 12 I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; 13 also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man. 14 I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him. 15 That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been; and God seeks what has been driven away.

GROUP DISCUSSION

What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon and why do you think God wants you to remember this truth?

Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-15.

We learn in verse 1 that life is made up of seasons. How would you describe your current season of life and what season is next for you?

In verses 2-8, Solomon does not pull any punches about how extreme life is. Read through these highs and lows and share a time when you experienced both within the same situation. (ex. time to mourn and a time to dance) How did you experience God during these times?

Summarize verses 9-10 in your own words and how do these verses relate to Eccl. 1:13?

Sermon quote: "You know sin always overpromises and underdelivers right? Sin is like a really bad friend who invites you to all the parties. Tells you to live to your heart's content. It sounds so cool until afterward, when you are left with all the consequences of your decision, he leaves you high and dry to suffer alone. Sin will not suffer with you." Question: Why do you/we run back to it?

What does verse 11 teach us about who God is?

According to verses 12-13, what should we do as we wait on God during seasons of life? What are things that bring you true joy when in a difficult season?

All To Him: How do verses 14-15 lead us to surrender control to the One who is in control? Share what you are having the most trouble surrendering to God.

PRAYER (In gender based groups)

*Share praises, answered prayers, and prayer requests.

Closing Prayer (together as a group)

Heavenly Father, we are grateful for your grace and truth as we seek to surrender everything to you in all seasons of life. Show us the things we are holding on to and trying to control. Give us the desire and power to surrender our all to You. Jesus, you are worthy of all praise, honor, glory and even our lives. Amen

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