

#### 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.

- [Watch Overview](#)

#### CONTEXT

Ecclesiastes 9:1-10 reflects on the inevitability of death for all people, regardless of their righteousness or wickedness, and emphasizes the importance of living life to the fullest while we can. It encourages taking joy in daily activities, loving relationships, and the work we do, as these are God's gifts to us in our earthly journey.

#### THE BIG IDEA

Everyone dies, but not everyone truly lives. Live for what matters while you're here.

#### ICE BREAKER

Complete one or both of these sentences.

\*I feel fully alive when \_\_\_\_\_.

\*One time in my life that I felt fully alive in Christ was \_\_\_\_\_.

#### SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 9:1-10

But all this I laid to heart, examining it all, how the righteous and the wise and their deeds are in the hand of God. Whether it is love or hate, man does not know; both are before him. 2 It is the same for all, since the same event happens to the righteous and the wicked, to the good and the evil, to the clean and the unclean, to him who sacrifices and him who does not sacrifice. As the good one is, so is the sinner, and he who swears is as he who shuns an oath. 3 This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that the same event happens to all. Also, the hearts of the children of man are full of evil, and madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead. 4 But he who is joined with all the living has hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion. 5 For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. 6 Their love and their hate and their envy have already perished, and forever they have no more share in all that is done under the sun. 7 Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do. 8 Let your garments be always white. Let not oil be lacking on your head. 9 Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun. 10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.

### 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 the **Sermon Quote** on page 3 of this study guide. (see below) Share what phrase or overarching thought stands out to you. How does this relate to the sermon?

What is 1 thing you need to stop and 1 thing you need to start doing to *live like you're dying*?

Read verses 1-3a. The Preacher makes the point that people might hate you for what you believe. Share a time when you've experienced this kind of hatred or witnessed it. As a group look through John 15 and find what Jesus promises us about hate.

In verse 2, what is Solomon talking about when he says, "same event happens to the righteous and the wicked..."? How does this help us understand that death is the great equalizer?

What are your pervasive thoughts and what do you feel when you realize that death is coming for you? (vs. 2)

Read verses 3b-6. Solomon is contrasting 2 ways of living, Hellish vs Hopeful. From the sermon, describe what both are and are not.

Are you investing the one life God's given you into what truly matters or wasting it on you? How does your honest answer determine if you're living hopeful?

**Discussion continued:** Read verses 7-10.

These verses help us to practically *live like we are dying*. Discuss the 3 ways for us to truly live: 1. Celebrate Joyfully (vs 7-8), 2. Love Deeply (vs 9) and Work Intentionally (vs 10). Each person share which one they need to grow in, to truly live out *Hopeful Living*.

**PRAYER** (In gender based groups)

\*Share praises, answered prayers, and prayer requests. Pray for each other's ONE.

**Closing Prayer**(come back together as a group)

Heavenly Father, we thank You for your precious gift of life and the love that surrounds us each day. Help us to live fully, finding joy in our daily lives and relationships, knowing that these are Your blessings to us on our earthly journey. God, show us our next step in living fully alive in this one life you've given us. In Jesus name, amen.

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**Sermon Quote:** by Oliver Burkeman

“We must live out our lives to whatever extent we can, in clear-eyed acknowledgement of our limitations in the undeluded mode of ‘being-towards-death’...aware that this is it, that life is not a dress rehearsal, that every choice requires many sacrifices, and that time is always already running out —indeed, that it may run out today, tomorrow, or next month. And so it’s not merely a matter of spending each day ‘as if’ it were your last, as the cliché has it. The point is that it always actually might be. I can’t entirely depend upon a single moment of the future.”