



ultimate reality

Ecclesiastes 12.8-14

This discussion guide includes preparation BEFORE the group and some guidance DURING the group meeting. Preparation before the group will help you, your leader, and your group to engage and respond to the living and active Word of God.

PREPARATION BEFORE THE GROUP MEETS:

The aim of this preparation is to encourage good & prayerful observation of the text of God's word and the joyful experience of discovering its truth.

Pray & read Ecclesiastes 12.8-14

What are the two most striking things in this reading?

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What puzzles you the most in this reading?

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How does this reading make you **feel**?

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What do you **think** in response to this reading?

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What will you **do** in response to this reading?

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WHEN THE GROUP MEETS: Pray for your discussion time

read Ecclesiastes 12.8 – [check to see if anyone had a stand-out or something puzzling from this section]

▸ **The last words of the Teacher:** What is the conclusion of the Teacher? Take time to reflect on what you've learned as we've studied Ecclesiastes together:

What have you put into practice along the way? Write down anything that comes up that you haven't yet put into practice:

read Ecclesiastes 12.9-12; 1Kings 4.29-34 [check to see if anyone had a stand-out or something puzzling from this section]

▸ **The last words about the Teacher:** the narrator writes the opening and the conclusion to Ecclesiastes. According to the narrator is the Teacher worth listening to? (12.9-11) Why/why not:

▸ According to the narrator will we ever understand life under the sun better than the Teacher? (12.12) Why/why not:

read Ecclesiastes 12.13-14 [check to see if anyone had a stand-out or something puzzling from this section]

▸ **the conclusion of the matter:** what is the bottom line for wisdom as distilled by the narrator?

▸ Living this side of Jesus what does it look like for you to *fear God and obey his commands*?

▸ Living this side of Jesus do you expect to *obey his commandments* perfectly, do you live in fear of the judgment of God? Why/why not?

PRAYER time! Take time to thank God for the wisdom of his word and most supremely the wisdom we have in THE WORD, Jesus. Ask God to help you be wise, to fear and obey. Pray specifically for any areas where you're tempted to not trust and obey what God says is the good life!