



a reality check on pleasure

Ecclesiastes 2.1-11

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 2.1-11

What strikes you about this reading?

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Do you have any questions about 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

Share with each other the things in life that bring you the most happiness:

read Ecclesiastes 2.1-11

- How does Solomon test what the 'good life' is?

- List all the things Solomon tries and does in the pursuit of happiness:

- Who is at the centre of this pleasure seeking life?

- Why is pleasure meaningless in the quest for happiness?

read 1 John 2.15-17; Luke 10.25-28

- What are the 2 problems with Solomon-like worldly desires?

- Complete this sentence - the wise person who wants to live forever lives to please _____ and not _____.

- According to Jesus what is the life that pleases God?

read 1 Timothy 4.1-5

- Using this passage as a guide discuss the place of pleasure in the Christian life:

Revisit the things that bring you the most happiness:

Do you need to repent of anything that is *the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does?*

What spurs you on to find meaning in the pleasure and happiness of loving God and loving others? How can you do this more?

How are you thankful to God for the pleasures he gives? Would people around you say you're a thankful person?

PRAY!