



a reality check on justice

Ecclesiastes 3.16-4.4

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 3.16-4.4

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 3.16-4.4

- What does the Teacher first see that makes a mockery of justice in this world? Is this a reasonable conclusion why/why not? (3.16)

- Where does his heart look for ultimate justice? (3.17)

- Is the Teacher sure about the judgement to come? Why not? (3.18-22)

- What does the Teacher see next with regards to injustice? Is this also a reasonable view of the world, why/why not? (4.1)

- Discuss your reaction to the Teacher and his conclusion that injustices make life not worth living (4.2-3):

- Why is there injustice in the world? What is the heart of our injustice problem? (4.4)

read Mark 7.14-23, Acts 17.16-31;

- According to Jesus what is the heart of the human problem? (Mk 7.14-23)

- What is the 'new' teaching that Paul brings to the Athenians? How might this 'new' teaching have changed Solomon's conclusion about the meaning of life? (Acts 17.16-29)

- What does the resurrection of Jesus prove? What does God command everyone to do in response? (Acts 17.30-31)

PRAYER time! Pray earnestly and specifically for friends, for boldness to invite and, for strangers to come on Sunday so that their eyes might be opened and hearts softened to receive the good news of Jesus and repent!