



a reality check on treasure

Ecclesiastes 5

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 5

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

What physical things do you have that make feel secure? What do you lack and it makes feel insecure?

read Ecclesiastes 5.1-7

▸ What is the advice of the Teacher when it comes to making a response to God?

▸ Discuss how you might be wise/unwise in your responses to God (see Romans 12.1-2; 1 Cor 9.6-15; James 1.22-25; 1 Peter 4.7-11)

read Ecclesiastes 5.8-17

▸ Why is wealth/treasure also meaningless?

read Ecclesiastes 5.18-20

▸ Reflect on what you have and your lot in life. What speaks to you most from these verses?

▸ **Read 1 Timothy 6.6-10** - Share honestly of your struggle with contentment:

read Matthew 6.19-33; Luke 12.16-21; 1 Timothy 6.17-19

▸ Reflect on this New Testament teaching on treasure. What are some examples of you deliberately aligning your priorities and possessions with this teaching?

▸ In what specific way has this teaching challenged the treasure of your heart? Where does your heart really find rest & security?

▸ Generosity is a great antidote to the love of money. Discuss specific ways that you do or could inoculate yourself against *affluenza* (when affluence is like a disease). (NB: no hasty, empty vows!)

PRAYER time! You've thought about deep matters of the heart. The heart is deceitful so pray earnestly with and for each other that Jesus will search and examine, bring to light, and cure your heart to love him and others as it should.