

LG | Leader

[Ecclesiastes 3:1-13]

WARM-UP (10 mins)

It is likely that everyone present had a very busy day, maybe even a trying day. Let's take a moment to still our minds and go to the Lord in prayer.

- When you reflect back on Sunday's sermon, what impacted you the most? Anything that stirred your affection towards the Lord?

ILLUMINATE (40 mins)

Open your Bibles to the primary text.

1. Many scholars believe the author of Ecclesiastes to be David's son, king Solomon (The Preacher). It is believed that his audience is an assembly of some kind that is socioeconomically diverse (royal counselors as well as farmers). Let's read our text. Have you read this before? What are your initial thoughts of this text?

2. Who remembers what the punishment of the Fall was? Where do we find this in the Bible? How does this text shed light on our collective punishment in the Fall?

Gen 3:16-19 details God's punishment for Adam and Eve, and thus the rest of mankind since mankind forfeited the righteousness we originally possessed before God. This text in Ecclesiastes describes the seasons of man's life, man's toil in work, and our temporal nature.

3. Romans 8:20 says that all of creation has been "subjected to futility." What do you think Paul was saying?

He is expressing the reality of living in a fallen world. Death, sickness, and sorrow are a reality that we live with every day and no one is immune. All creation groans for redemption and consummation.

4. Given the seasonal and temporal nature of our lives and our work, what do you think this author is leading us to understand?

Our earthly lives and efforts are futile, but God is eternal and has put eternity into man's heart (3:11).

5. What does this text make you consider in your own lives?

[Is there something that needs to change considering the wisdom given in this text?]

6. If someone was struggling with the trying seasons of life. How would you use this text to counsel them?

Explain that life is full of seasons (highs and lows, mountain tops and valleys), however verses 12-13 give us direction in trying times – Stop and take time to enjoy God and his creation and realize the gifts of God are all around us (including our work), we just have to take the time to stop and look.

7. How can we teach something like this to our kids?

[open dialogue] – Example: As the season change in nature, we explain that are lives are just like the flowers in the spring or the trees in the fall (seasons, life and death).

PRAY

Use this time to pray specifically. Pray for the needs of others; locally and abroad.