



Bible
BOOK CLUB

January 2021 - Ecclesiastes

OPENING PRAYER

God of meaning and purpose, in this New Year full of possibility and hope, may we move forward in and through our faith, that your call for our lives and communities be clear and strengthening as we rely on the power of your Spirit through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

- Summarize the whole book in ten (10) words or less. This will give us a window into how you feel about the book and what you think the book is about. How do your ten (10) words compare to the words your book club came up with?
- Aside from the Byrds 1965 classic "Turn! Turn! Turn!", what are some images and anecdotes that came to mind when reading through Ecclesiastes?
- The author of the book (who self-suggests to be King Solomon, but many scholars have issues with that) speaks a lot of vanity (but nothing about mirrors). What are some areas in your life that, in hindsight or more reflection, are beginning to seem like just vanity?
- After completing the 12 somewhat bleak but intriguing chapters, what (if anything) has changed in your perspective of life? Of yourself? Of your sense of purpose and call?
- Was there any one verse or portion that stood out to you in this book? Why do you think it stood out? What implications does it hold for your life?
- Admittedly, this isn't the kind of book that you'd associate with the Bible right off the bat, as it seems to evoke a lot of hopelessness and indifference. But if you could, how would you extract hope from the words of this book (particularly in chapters 9-12)?
- Possibly the most stereotypical question one could ask about any book in the Bible is "where do you see God in this book?" Not just what represents God or what could act as a type for God, but in what ways can we see and read about themes relating to God's personality or God's nature? Essentially, what does the author of Ecclesiastes (be it King Solomon or otherwise) tell us about God?

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BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

- Many preachers would tell you that the point of reading scripture is to get a stronger sense of God's grace and love for us. Is that the sense that you get from Ecclesiastes? Why or why not?
- What kind of feelings are you left with after reading this book? What can you do with these feelings, if anything at all? Or, perhaps what *should* you do with them?
- Would you recommend reading Ecclesiastes to a friend? If so, what kind of friend would you think would need to read this? If not, why don't your friends need to read this?
- Revisit the first question. Has your response changed at all after thinking about and wrestling with this text on a deeper level? It's ok if it didn't, it is a difficult book to read and apply to life.

CLOSING PRAYER

God of our mindfulness and thought processes, as we continue to struggle with your truths and wisdom, ignite our minds and set ablaze our hearts that our passion and fervor might always be for you and your promises. Drive us to seek out your grace and mercy in and all around our lives, reveal to us your love and calling, and remind us always of your eternal welcome for us into your kingdom with your Son Jesus, through whose name we pray. Amen.

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This month's resource was prepared by Rev. Nathan Fong.