

## WEEKLY GROUP GUIDE

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|  | <b>Scripture:</b>     | Ecclesiastes 3:1–22                    |
|  | <b>Week of:</b>       | February 2, 2026                       |
|  | <b>Message Title:</b> | Life under the Sun: God Sets the Times |
|  | <b>Speaker:</b>       | Ps. Lenard Tavernelli                  |

### **1. ICEBREAKER (5–10 MINS)**

What is one season of life you wish you could fast-forward through, and one season you wish you could freeze and keep? What do those instincts reveal about what you fear losing or want to control?

### **2. READ TOGETHER**

*Have someone from your group read aloud **ECCLESIASTES 3:1–22**.*

**Ask:** As you listen, notice the repeated language of “time” and the paired moments of life (birth and death, weeping and laughing, gaining and losing). What do these repeated pairings suggest about what we can and cannot control?

### **3. Group Discussion (30–40 mins)**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:** *(Use the most helpful questions for your group.)*

- 1.** Ecclesiastes 3 presents a picture of life where every moment is appointed and none of it is ultimately controlled by us. When you hear this chapter, what do you feel first: comfort, frustration, anxiety, resignation, or peace? What does that reaction reveal about what you believe life should give you?
- 2.** The sermon emphasized that **God sovereignly sets the times**, even when His name is not mentioned in verses 1–9. Where in your life are you tempted to think, “This should not be happening right now”? What would it look like to say honestly, “My times are in Your hand” (Psalm 31:14–15)?

3. The balance of Ecclesiastes 3 shows that **everything time gives, time eventually takes away**. Where do you feel that most clearly right now (health, work, relationships, plans, influence)? What have you been treating as permanent that God has never promised to keep permanent?
4. The sermon described three responses to the limits of time: fighting for control, falling into despair, or surrendering in faith. Which response do you drift toward most naturally when life changes in ways you did not choose? Why do you think that is?
5. Ecclesiastes says God has placed **eternity into the human heart**, yet we cannot see the full scope of what He is doing. Where do you feel that longing for “more than this world provides” most strongly right now? How has that longing shaped your expectations, disappointments, or restlessness?
6. Ps. Lenard warned against trying to control the future by seeking knowledge God has not revealed. Where do you see yourself trying to manage uncertainty through over-planning, over-thinking, constant analysis, or needing reassurance? What are you afraid would happen if you stopped trying to control outcomes?
7. The sermon called us to **enjoy the present as God’s gift**, not merely endure it while waiting for something better. What part of your current “lot” is hardest to receive as a gift (a limitation, responsibility, waiting season, sorrow)? What do you believe your life would finally become if that part changed?
8. Ecclesiastes 3 holds together two realities: God will make everything fitting in its time, and God will judge every deed in His time. How does trusting God as the final judge change how you carry anger, fear, resentment, or the need to fix injustice yourself?
9. How does Ecclesiastes 3 connect directly to our mission to “Proclaim the truth of Jesus and grow mature disciples for the glory of God”?  
Ecclesiastes 3 exposes the limits of life under the sun and confronts our desire for control. This prepares us to proclaim Jesus truthfully, not as a tool for managing life, but as the Lord of time and eternity. It matures disciples by teaching them to live faithfully in the present “lot” God has given,

trusting His timing rather than measuring faithfulness by visible success or immediate outcomes.

- 10.** How does revering God and rejoicing in the lot He gives reshape our core values as a church and as individuals? Receiving time and life as God's gift reorients our values away from control, anxiety, and performance, and toward trust, gratitude, and faithful presence.
- **Worship:** Worship becomes reverent trust in every season, not just celebration when life feels easy.
  - **Bible Knowledge:** Scripture trains us to submit to God's timing and live wisely within our limits.
  - **Fellowship:** Community deepens as we walk honestly with one another through changing seasons.
  - **Prayer:** Prayer becomes dependence on God's daily provision rather than demands for control.
  - **Service:** Service becomes faithfulness in our portion, not a way to force results or prove worth.
  - **Giving:** Generosity grows as we hold possessions loosely, trusting God with the future.
  - **Evangelism:** We proclaim Christ with urgency and patience, trusting God's timing in salvation.
  - **Missions:** Our vision expands beyond our personal timeline to God's long work across generations.

#### **4. Prayer (10–15 mins)**

Thank God for His sovereignty over time and ask for trust in our present lot

#### **Prompt:**

Father, we confess that we often resist Your timing and try to control our lives. Forgive us for living in the past with regret or in the future with anxiety instead of receiving today as Your gift. Thank You that our times are in Your hand. Help us to revere You, trust Your wisdom, and rejoice in the portion You have given us. Strengthen those who are weary or waiting, and shape us into a church that lives faithfully in every season and proclaims Jesus with hope. In His name, amen.