

WEEKLY GROUP GUIDE



Scripture: Ecclesiastes 5:1-7



Week of: February 15, 2026



Message Title: How to Come to Bethel



Speaker: Ps. Lenard Tavernelli

1. ICEBREAKER (5-10 MINS)

What is one setting in your life where you naturally become more serious or careful in how you act or speak? Why does that environment change you?

2. READ TOGETHER

*Have someone from your group read aloud **ECCLESIASTES 5:1-7**.*

Ask: As you listen, notice the repeated contrasts: listening vs. speaking, few words vs. many words, reverence vs. foolishness. What tensions do you see in the passage between how people approach God and how they should approach Him?

3. Group Discussion (30-40 mins)

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

1. The passage begins, "Guard your steps when you go to the house of God." What does that command assume about how easily we drift into casual, self-focused worship?
2. Koheleth says it is better to draw near to listen than to offer the sacrifice of fools. Why do you think listening feels less spiritual or impressive than speaking, singing, or doing?
3. Pastor Lenard emphasized that worship begins with God's revelation, not our preferences. In what subtle ways do we try to reshape worship around what we like, feel, or expect?

4. Verse 2 reminds us, "God is in heaven and you are on earth." How does recovering a sense of God's transcendence reshape how you pray?
5. Jesus warned against "heaping up empty phrases." When do your prayers drift into repetition, performance, or anxiety rather than thoughtful humility? What does that reveal about what you believe prayer accomplishes?
6. The text warns against making vows lightly. Why do you think we overpromise spiritually and underdeliver practically? What does that reveal about our desire to appear sincere rather than actually obey?
7. "Let your words be few... God is the one you must fear." What is one practical step you can take this week, especially this Sunday, to approach worship with greater reverence and careful listening?
8. The passage ends with, "God is the one you must fear." What is the difference between fearing embarrassment before people and fearing the Lord in worship?
9. How does Ecclesiastes 5:1–7 connect to our mission to **"Proclaim the truth of Jesus and grow mature disciples for the glory of God"?**
This passage reminds us that true worship is God-centered, Word-shaped, and marked by obedience. We proclaim Jesus rightly when our gatherings reflect reverence rather than performance. Disciples grow mature not by emotional experience alone, but by learning to listen, obey, and worship according to God's revealed truth.
10. How does approaching worship with reverence and careful obedience reshape our core values as a church?
 - **Worship:** Worship becomes response to God's revelation, not expression of personal preference.
 - **Bible Knowledge:** Scripture must remain central because true worship begins with hearing God's Word.
 - **Fellowship:** We gather not as consumers but as a reverent community shaped together by truth.
 - **Prayer:** Prayer becomes thoughtful, humble dependence rather than empty repetition.
 - **Service:** Obedience flows from listening hearts, not from self-promotion.

- **Giving:** Our offerings reflect gratitude, not bargaining with God.
- **Evangelism:** We present a holy, worthy God, not a customizable one.
- **Missions:** We spread the worship of the true God, not merely religious experience.

4. Prayer (10-15 mins)

Thank God for His holiness and ask for hearts that listen and obey.

Prompt:

Father, we confess how easily we approach You casually, distracted, or self-focused. Forgive us for speaking quickly and listening slowly. Forgive us for empty words, shallow promises, and worship shaped more by preference than by Your Word. Thank You that through Jesus we may draw near with confidence. Teach us to guard our steps, to listen carefully, to pray humbly, and to worship You with reverence and awe. Shape Bethel into a church that honors Your holiness and reflects Your truth. In Jesus' name, amen.