

## WEEKLY GROUP GUIDE

	<b>Scripture:</b>	Ecclesiastes 7:1–14
	<b>Week of:</b>	March 2, 2026
	<b>Message Title:</b>	Living in Light of Death
	<b>Speaker:</b>	Ps. Lenard Tavernelli

### **1. ICEBREAKER (5–10 MINS)**

If you had one extra hour every day, what would you actually do with it? What does that reveal about what you think matters most?

### **2. READ TOGETHER**

*Have someone from your group read aloud **ECCLESIASTES 7:1–14**.*

**Ask:** Which line(s) of this passage are uncomfortable or shocking to you? If you had to answer honestly, which verse(s) do you most want to argue with, avoid, or explain away?

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

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

- 1.** Pastor Lenard said we live in an escapist culture that tries to avoid death. Where do you personally run to escape reality, even if it looks harmless?
- 2.** Verse 2 says the house of mourning is better because “this is the end of all mankind, and the living will lay it to heart.” What does it mean to actually “lay it to heart”? What would change in your life if you really did?
- 3.** The sermon talked about “amusing ourselves to death.” What distractions most effectively keep you from thinking about your soul, your sin, and eternity?

4. Verse 3 says “by sadness of face the heart is made glad.” How have you seen sorrow produce wisdom, clarity, or real joy that shallow laughter never gave you?
5. Pastor Lenard quoted Psalm 90:12, “Teach us to number our days.” What would numbering your days expose about how you currently spend your time, money, attention, and energy?
6. Verses 7–9 warn that oppression and frustration can drive even the wise toward madness, anger, and corruption. Where are you tempted to justify sinful responses because life feels unfair?
7. Verse 8 says “the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.” Where are you demanding that life go your way right now? What would humble patience look like in that situation?
8. Verse 10 warns about nostalgia, “Why were the former days better than these?” Where do you use the “good old days” story to avoid obedience and faithfulness today?
9. How does this passage connect to our mission to **“Proclaim the truth of Jesus and grow mature disciples for the glory of God”**?  
Ecclesiastes 7 shatters the fantasy that life is about comfort, distraction, and control. It sobers us with death, exposes our escapism and our cynicism, and forces us to live in the real world under God’s providence. That clarity helps us proclaim Jesus as the only Savior who defeats death and prepares us for judgment. Mature disciples are formed when we stop running, start listening, repent quickly, and learn wisdom that leads to faithful living and eternal hope.
10. Which of Bethel’s core values does this passage especially strengthen? How?
  - **Worship** – Death in view produces reverence, not casual religion.
  - **Bible Knowledge** – Ecclesiastes trains us to think truthfully about life, suffering, and providence.
  - **Fellowship** – The house of mourning reminds us we need each other and honest community.
  - **Prayer** – We ask for wisdom, patience, and trust instead of distraction and control.

- **Service** – Numbering our days makes us use our time for what matters.
- **Giving** – A sober heart loosens its grip on temporary comforts.
- **Evangelism** – Death and judgment are real, so the gospel is urgent.
- **Missions** – The hope of resurrection sends us outward with courage.

#### ***4. Prayer (10–15 mins)***

Thank God that He governs all of life in wisdom and goodness. Confess where you have lived for distraction, comfort, or control. Ask Him to teach you to number your days and to trust Him in both prosperity and adversity.

#### **Prompt:**

Father, we confess that we often live distracted and hurried lives. We fill our days with noise so that we do not have to think about death, judgment, or eternity. Forgive us for amusing ourselves instead of seeking wisdom. Forgive us for becoming cynical when life does not go our way.

Teach us to number our days so that we may gain a heart of wisdom. Guard our hearts from anger, pride, and nostalgia. Help us to patiently trust Your providence in both good days and hard days.

Fix our eyes on Jesus, who conquered death and will judge the living and the dead. Make us sober, faithful, and ready. Shape us into a church that lives with eternity in view and proclaims Christ with clarity and courage. In His name we pray, amen.