

WEEKLY GROUP GUIDE



Scripture: Ecclesiastes 8:1–17



Week of: March 16, 2026



Message Title: Who Is Like the Wise?



Speaker: Ps. Lenard Tavernelli

1. ICEBREAKER (5–10 MINS)

What is one simple thing that has brought you joy or helped you smile this past week?

2. READ TOGETHER

*Have someone from your group read aloud **ECCLESIASTES 8:1–17**.*

Ask: As you listen, pay attention to the parts of the passage that feel difficult, unfair, or unresolved. What stands out to you most, and why?

3. Group Discussion (30–40 mins)

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

- 1.** The chapter begins by saying wisdom makes a person's face shine and changes the hardness of his face. What do you think that says about what wisdom does to a person over time?
- 2.** Pastor Lenard said wisdom is not mainly about extraordinary moments, but about how we live in ordinary life. Where do you most need wisdom right now in the ordinary, daily parts of your life?
- 3.** Verses 2–8 teach that it is wise to keep the king's word, even when you disagree. Where are you most tempted to resist rightful authority, not because it is sinful, but because you do not like surrendering control?

4. The sermon connected this passage ultimately to King Jesus. What does your actual obedience reveal about whether you see Jesus mainly as helpful, or as King?
5. Verses 9–14 wrestle honestly with the fact that life is often unfair. Where does the unfairness of life tempt you most toward anger, cynicism, or quiet unbelief?
6. Pastor Lenard said that when justice seems delayed, we may be tempted to think people are getting away with evil. Where do you most struggle to trust that God’s justice will prevail in the end?
7. Verse 15 commends joy, even in an unfair and enigmatic world. Why is it so much easier to complain than to be joyful? What one step can you take this week to fight the urge to complain and live joyfully?
8. The preacher says no one can fully find out all the work of God under the sun. Where do you most want explanations from God? What happens in your heart when He does not give them?

9. How does Ecclesiastes 8:1–17 connect to our mission to “Proclaim the truth of Jesus and grow mature disciples for the glory of God”?

This passage teaches us that wisdom is not found in pretending life is fair or fully explainable. It teaches us to obey the King, fear God, and live with joy even when life is hard to understand. That helps us proclaim Jesus honestly in a world full of injustice and confusion. It also grows mature disciples by training us to walk in reverent obedience, patient trust, and steady joy rather than cynicism, control, or despair.

10. How does this passage reshape our core values as a church?

- **Worship:** We bow before King Jesus with reverence, not merely personal preference.
- **Bible Knowledge:** Scripture teaches us how to live wisely in a world that often feels unfair and confusing.
- **Fellowship:** We need one another when life feels unjust or hard to understand.
- **Prayer:** We bring our confusion and frustration to God instead of hardening into cynicism.
- **Service:** We live faithfully in the ordinary responsibilities God has given us.

- **Giving:** We loosen our grip on control and trust God's justice and provision.
- **Evangelism:** We proclaim Jesus as the true King in a world full of false hopes and failed rulers.
- **Missions:** We carry the gospel into a world that desperately needs the justice, wisdom, and joy found only in Christ.

4. Prayer (10–15 mins)

Thank God for His justice and wisdom, and ask for hearts that obey the King and rejoice in the fear of God.

Prompt:

Father, we confess that when life feels unfair or confusing, we are often tempted toward control, cynicism, or discouragement. Forgive us for resisting Your authority, doubting Your justice, and losing joy when we do not understand what You are doing. Thank You that You are the just and wise God, and that King Jesus reigns over all things. Teach us to obey Him, to fear You, and to receive life from Your hand with trust and joy. Make us a people whose lives shine with wisdom, even in an unfair and enigmatic world. In Jesus' name, amen.