

WEEKLY GROUP GUIDE

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|  | Scripture: | Ecclesiastes 7:15–29 |
|  | Week of: | March 9, 2026 |
|  | Message Title: | What You Can & Cannot Find |
|  | Speaker: | Ps. Lenard Tavernelli |

1. ICEBREAKER (5–10 MINS)

When life does not go the way you expected, what is your first instinct? Try harder, get angry, shut down, distract yourself, or something else?

2. READ TOGETHER

*Have someone from your group read aloud **ECCLESIASTES 7:15–29**.*

Ask: As you listen, pay attention to what feels difficult, unfair, or hard to accept in this passage. What part of the text feels most unsettling, and why?

3. Group Discussion (30–40 mins)

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

1. Verse 15 describes something that feels deeply wrong: a righteous person perishing while a wicked person prolongs his life. Where have you seen that kind of absurdity in life, and what does it stir up in you?
2. Pastor Lenard said there are two wrong ways to respond to life's absurdities: trying to control life through perfectionism, or giving up and living however you want. Which of those temptations feels more natural to you, and why?
3. "Be not overly righteous... and do not make yourself too wise." Where do you see perfectionism showing up in your life? How does it reveal a desire to control outcomes, earn approval, or avoid weakness?

4. "Be not overly wicked... neither be a fool." When life feels unfair, where are you tempted to justify sinful responses, even quietly, because part of you thinks, "Why bother?"
5. Verse 18 says, "The one who fears God shall come out from both of them." What does fearing God look like in a situation where you do not understand what God is doing?
6. The passage says there is not a righteous person on earth who does good and never sins. Why is it so hard for us to live honestly within the limits of our own righteousness? What do we keep trying to prove?
7. Verses 21–22 call us not to take every offense to heart, partly because we know our own sin too. What does your reaction to criticism, insult, or disrespect reveal about how aware you are of your own need for mercy?
8. Pastor Lenard said we must accept the limits of our own wisdom. Where do you most struggle to accept that you cannot figure everything out? What happens in your soul when God does not explain Himself?

9. How does Ecclesiastes 7:15–29 connect to our mission to "Proclaim the truth of Jesus and grow mature disciples for the glory of God"?

This passage helps us proclaim the truth of Jesus by stripping away confidence in our own wisdom and righteousness. It exposes both self-reliance and cynicism, and it drives us to Christ, who alone is our wisdom and righteousness. Disciples grow mature when they stop trying to control life, stop pretending they are enough, and instead learn to fear God and walk by faith in a world they cannot fully explain.

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

- **Worship:** We come before God with humility, not pretending we understand everything or deserve anything.
- **Bible Knowledge:** Scripture teaches us to think truthfully about sin, suffering, and our limits.
- **Fellowship:** We become more patient and merciful with others when we remember our own sin.
- **Prayer:** We ask for wisdom from God rather than trusting our own understanding.

- **Service:** We serve with humility, not with pride in our own righteousness.
- **Giving:** We loosen our grip on self-protection and trust God's wisdom with what we have.
- **Evangelism:** We point people to Christ, not to moral self-improvement or human answers.
- **Missions:** We go with confidence that the world's deepest problems will not be solved by human wisdom, but by the gospel.

4. Prayer (10–15 mins)

Thank God for His wisdom and mercy, and ask for faith to live within your limits

Prompt:

Father, we confess that we often want life to make more sense than it does. Forgive us for trying to control what You have not given us to control. Forgive us for trusting in our own righteousness, our own wisdom, or our own ability to figure things out. Thank You that in Christ we have the wisdom and righteousness we do not have in ourselves. Teach us to fear You, to accept our limits, and to walk by faith when life feels absurd or unfair. Make us a humble, merciful, and trusting people who point others to Jesus. In His name, amen.