





WEEKLY GROUP GUIDE

	Scripture:	Ecclesiastes 9:1–12
	Week of:	April 13, 2026
	Message Title:	Enjoy Life in the Hand of God
	Speaker:	Ps. Lenard Tavernelli

1. ICEBREAKER (5–10 MINS)

What is something simple in your daily life that you really enjoy (food, routine, place, etc.)? Why do you think we often overlook or take those things for granted?

2. READ TOGETHER

*Have someone from your group read aloud **ECCLESIASTES 9:1–12**.*

Ask: As you listen, notice the movement of the passage: first death, then the call to enjoy life now, and then the unpredictability of life. What part of that movement feels hardest to receive, and why?

3. Group Discussion (30–40 mins)

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

- 1.** Verse 1 says that “the righteous and the wise and their deeds are in the hand of God.” Why is that both comforting and unsettling? What in you resists that kind of dependence?
- 2.** The passage says the same event happens to the righteous and the wicked. How does that confront the way we often assume life should work, especially the idea that good people should get good outcomes?
- 3.** Verse 3 says the human heart is full of evil and madness while we live, and after that we die. Why is it important that Ecclesiastes connects death not just to weakness or nature, but to sin?

4. Pastor Lenard emphasized that death is certain and final. Where do you see yourself tempted to live as if death is distant, avoidable, or not really relevant to how you live today?
5. Verses 11–12 say life is unpredictable, and that “time and chance” happen to all. The sermon made clear this is not fate, but God’s providence. Where in your life do you most struggle with not being able to control outcomes?
6. The sermon pushed back against prosperity thinking. In what ways are you still tempted to believe that if you are faithful enough, wise enough, or obedient enough, life should go more smoothly for you?
7. After all the realism about death and unpredictability, the passage says, “Go, eat your bread with joy.” Why is joy not denial in this passage? Why is it actually an act of faith?
8. What is the difference between enjoying God’s gifts and using them to escape reality? Where are you most tempted to turn God’s gifts into distractions rather than receiving them with gratitude?
9. How does Ecclesiastes 9:1–12 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 because it tells the truth about life under the sun. Death is certain. Life is unpredictable. We are not in control. But it also points us to the God who holds our lives in His hand and to the hope of salvation in Christ. Mature disciples are formed when they stop building their lives on false guarantees and instead learn to trust God’s providence, receive His gifts with gratitude, and live wisely in light of eternity.

10. How does this passage reshape our core values as a church?
 - **Worship:** We worship God as the sovereign Lord who holds life and death in His hand.
 - **Bible Knowledge:** Scripture teaches us to think truthfully about providence, mortality, and joy.
 - **Fellowship:** We need one another to face hard truths honestly and still encourage one another in hope.
 - **Prayer:** We bring our anxieties, uncertainty, and lack of control to the God who governs all things.
 - **Service:** We use our limited time and strength faithfully, knowing our days are not endless.

- **Giving:** We hold our possessions more loosely because life is brief and everything is from God's hand.
- **Evangelism:** We speak of Christ urgently because death is certain and today is the day of salvation.
- **Missions:** We take the gospel to the nations because all people live under the same sentence of death and need the same risen Savior.

4. Prayer (10–15 mins)

Thank God that our lives are in His hand, and ask Him to teach us to enjoy life with faith, humility, and gratitude.

Prompt:

Father, thank You that though life is brief and often unpredictable, it is never outside of Your hand. Forgive us for trying to control what belongs to You alone. Forgive us for the ways we chase false guarantees, compare ourselves to others, or live as though this life is all there is. Teach us to face death honestly, to trust Your providence deeply, and to receive the good gifts You give with joy and gratitude. Help us not to waste our days in fear, envy, or distraction, but to live faithfully and point others to the hope that is found only in Jesus. In His name, amen.