





## WEEKLY GROUP GUIDE

	<b>Scripture:</b>	Ecclesiastes 12:9–14
	<b>Week of:</b>	May 4, 2026
	<b>Message Title:</b>	The End of the Matter: God’s Wisdom & Your Purpose
	<b>Speaker:</b>	Ps. Lenard Tavernelli

### **1. ICEBREAKER (5–10 MINS)**

When you hear the question, “What is the purpose of your life?” what is your honest, instinctive answer?

### **2. READ TOGETHER**

*Have someone from your group read aloud **ECCLESIASTES 12:9–14**.*

**Ask:** As you listen, pay attention to what the passage says about wisdom, truth, and your purpose. What stands out to you most?

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

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

- 1.** The sermon emphasized that without God, life under the sun becomes *hebel*: empty, brief, and meaningless. Where do you see people trying to create meaning apart from God, and where are you tempted to do the same?
- 2.** Verse 11 says true wisdom is given by “one Shepherd.” When you need wisdom, direction, or clarity, where do you instinctively turn first? What does that reveal about whether you truly trust God’s Word?
- 3.** Koheleth carefully weighed, studied, and arranged words of truth. Do you approach Scripture with that same seriousness, or do you tend to treat God’s Word casually or selectively? What does your approach reveal about what you believe Scripture is?

4. The sermon described God's Word as both delightful and corrective. Which part of God's Word do you resist more: its beauty that calls you to worship, or its correction that exposes your sin? Why do you think that is?
5. Verse 12 warns us to beware of anything beyond true wisdom. What voices are currently shaping your thinking more than Scripture? How are those voices shaping your view of purpose, identity, morality, or truth?
6. Ecclesiastes ends with this clear purpose: "Fear God and keep his commandments." If someone looked honestly at your life right now, what would they say is at the center? What competes most with the fear of God in your daily decisions?
7. Pastor Lenard said fearing God is not being terrified of Him, but standing in awe of Him. Do you relate to God more through duty, guilt, fear of consequences, or true awe and worship? What needs to change in how you see Him?
8. Verse 14 says God will bring every deed into judgment, including every secret thing. What hidden areas of your life do you tend to minimize because no one else sees them? How should the certainty of God's judgment lead you to repentance, honesty, and hope in Christ?
9. How does Ecclesiastes 12:9-14 connect to our mission to "Proclaim the truth of Jesus and grow mature disciples for the glory of God"?

This passage exposes the emptiness of life without God and points us to true wisdom found in Him. We proclaim the truth of Jesus by calling people beyond self-made meaning to the One who gives purpose, forgiveness, and eternal life. Mature disciples grow as they receive God's Word, fear Him, keep His commandments, and live with judgment and eternity in view.
10. How does Ecclesiastes 12:9-14 reshape our core values as a church?
  - **Worship:** We worship because God is our Creator, Shepherd, and Judge, and our lives are meant to center on Him.
  - **Bible Knowledge:** We value Scripture because true wisdom comes from God, not from endless human opinions or false teaching.

- **Fellowship:** We need one another to stay grounded in truth, receive correction, and resist the lies of the world together.
- **Prayer:** We pray because we are dependent creatures who need God's wisdom, mercy, and help to obey Him.
- **Service:** We serve because fearing God means offering our lives to Him, not merely knowing the right answers.
- **Giving:** We give because our purpose is not self-preservation, but glorifying God with all He has entrusted to us.
- **Evangelism:** We proclaim Christ because every person will stand before God and needs the Savior who frees us from condemnation.
- **Missions:** We go and send because the world is full of false wisdom, and the nations need the true wisdom and salvation found in Jesus.

#### ***4. Prayer (10–15 mins)***

Focus: Repentance, realignment, and purpose

**Prompt:**

Father, we confess that we often look for meaning, wisdom, and purpose apart from You. Forgive us for fearing other things more than we fear You. Teach us to stand in awe of You, to trust Your Word, and to obey You fully. Expose the hidden areas of our lives and lead us to repentance. Help us to live with clarity and purpose—to glorify You and enjoy You forever. Make us a people who walk in true wisdom and point others to Christ. In Jesus' name, amen.