

## **Study Guide-Ecclesiastes 9:11-11:6**

### **Peace**

1. Advent. Prince of Peace! Why do we not feel it at times? What anxious weeds can keep sprouting in our minds? (*Share examples*).

2. Discuss Solomon's observations:

a. No control over circumstances (Eccl. 9:11-12).

b. No control over people (Eccl. 9:13-10:4).

c. No control over outcomes (Eccl. 10:5-9).

What examples in your life can you recount that have felt out of control. How did you handle it?

3. Eccl. 10:10-11:6 is Solomon's way of saying that although we can't guarantee outcomes we still need to apply ourselves. How does this concept make you feel?

4. Read Philippians 4:6-7 and discuss how Jesus, the Prince (ruler) of Peace, has chosen to deliver His peace to our hearts. Discuss the following points:

a. We remain anxious when we play God and don't pray.

b. Our hearts can become a prayer factory. (Romans 12:12; 1 Thess. 5:17).

c. Our hearts can become a place of rest. (Phil. 4:7).

### **Application**

Spend 20 minutes of prayer together that includes a worship song, some time of silence, some reading of Scripture, some thanksgiving and some petitions. Ask God's Spirit to guide your prayer time and invite God's peace to settle over you.

## Message Slides

### Ecclesiastes 9:11-11:6

#### I. Out of Control (9:11-10:9)

##### A. No Control over Circumstances (Eccl. 9:11-12)

**11** I have seen something else under the sun: The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favor to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all.

**12** Moreover, no one knows when their hour will come: As fish are caught in a cruel net, or birds are taken in a snare, so people are trapped by evil times that fall unexpectedly upon them.

##### B. No Control over People (Eccl. 9:13-10:4)

**13** I also saw under the sun this example of wisdom that greatly impressed me:

**14** There was once a small city with only a few people in it. And a powerful king came against it, surrounded it and built huge siege works against it.

**15** Now there lived in that city a man poor but wise, and he saved the city by his wisdom. But nobody remembered that poor man.

**16** So I said, "Wisdom is better than strength." But the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are no longer heeded.

**17** The quiet words of the wise are more to be heeded than the shouts of a ruler of fools.

**18** Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.

#### Chapter 10

**1** As dead flies give perfume a bad smell, so a little folly outweighs wisdom and honor.

**2** The heart of the wise inclines to the right, but the heart of the fool to the left.

**3** Even as fools walk along the road, they lack sense and show everyone how stupid they are.

**4** If a ruler's anger rises against you, do not leave your post; calmness can lay great offenses to rest.

##### C. No Control over Outcomes (10:5-9)

**5** There is an evil I have seen under the sun, the sort of error that arises from a ruler:

**6** Fools are put in many high positions, while the rich occupy the low ones.

**7** I have seen slaves on horseback, while princes go on foot like slaves.

**8** Whoever digs a pit may fall into it; whoever breaks through a wall may be bitten by a snake.

**9** Whoever quarries stones may be injured by them; whoever splits logs may be endangered by them.

#### II. Keep Working Hard (10:10-11:6)

##### A. Apply your Skills (v.10-14)

**10** If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed, but skill will bring success.

11 If a snake bites before it is charmed, the charmer receives no fee.

12 Words from the mouth of the wise are gracious, but fools are consumed by their own lips.

13 At the beginning their words are folly; at the end they are wicked madness—

14 and fools multiply words. No one knows what is coming— who can tell someone else what will happen after them?

### B. Work Hard (v.15-20)

15 The toil of fools wearies them; they do not know the way to town.

16 Woe to the land whose king was a servant and whose princes feast in the morning.

17 Blessed is the land whose king is of noble birth and whose princes eat at a proper time— for strength and not for drunkenness.

18 Through laziness, the rafters sag; because of idle hands, the house leaks.

19 A feast is made for laughter, wine makes life merry, and money is the answer for everything.

20 Do not revile the king even in your thoughts, or curse the rich in your bedroom, because a bird in the sky may carry your words, and a bird on the wing may report what you say.

### C. Invest (11:1-6)

1 Ship your grain across the sea; after many days you may receive a return.

2 Invest in seven ventures, yes, in eight; you do not know what disaster may come upon the land.

3 If clouds are full of water, they pour rain on the earth. Whether a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where it falls, there it will lie.

4 Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap.

5 As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.

6 Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let your hands not be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.

### Advent- Prince of Peace

Isa. 9:6- "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the **government will rest on His shoulders**, and he will be called wonderful Counselor, mighty God, everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace.**"

### III. Connecting Over the Sun

#### Phil. 4:6-7

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

#### A. We remain anxious when we play God and don't pray.

"I have set the Lord continually before me...I will not be shaken." Ps. 16:8

**B. My heart becomes a prayer factory (6b)**

"...but in **everything** by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

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Eph. 6:18- Praying at all times in the Spirit.

Col. 4:2- Continue steadfastly in prayer.

1 Thess. 2:13- We also thank God constantly for this.

1 Thess. 3:10- As we pray most earnestly night and day.

Rom. 12:12- Be constant in prayer.

1 Thess. 5:17- Pray without ceasing...

**B. My heart becomes a prayer factory (6b)**

"...but in everything by prayer and supplication **with thanksgiving** let your requests be made known to God."

**C. My heart becomes a place of rest (7)**

**7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.