

Study Guide-Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:14

1. Read Ecclesiastes 11:7-10. What things do you enjoy most? Share one of your fun memories.
2. Read Ecclesiastes 12:1-8. Describe in your own words the aging process. What does it mean to “Remember your Creator in the days of your youth”? Why is it important?
3. Read v. 9-12. Why is it important to impart wisdom to the next generation? How do we do that? (see also 2 Tim. 2:2).
4. Read v. 13-14. Describe Solomon’s conclusion in your own words. How does his conclusion resonate with you? (see also Deut. 13:4).
5. In light of this failed life experiment, what are things you would want to do differently now to bring more meaning into your life?

Message Slides

Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:14

I. Have Fun While You're Young (11:7-10)

7 Light is sweet, and it pleases the eyes to see the sun.

8 However many years anyone may live, let them enjoy them all. But let them remember the days of darkness, for there will be many. Everything to come is meaningless.

9 You who are young, be happy while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.

10 So then, banish anxiety from your heart and cast off the troubles of your body, for youth and vigor are meaningless.

II. Remember God While You're Young (12:1-8)

1 Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them"—

The Aging Process

2 before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars grow dark, and the clouds return after the rain;

3 when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men stoop, when the grinders cease because they are few, and those looking through the windows grow dim;

4 when the doors to the street are closed and the sound of grinding fades; when people rise up at the sound of birds, but all their songs grow faint;

5 when people are afraid of heights and of dangers in the streets; when the almond tree blossoms and the grasshopper drags itself along and desire no longer is stirred. Then people go to their eternal home and mourners go about the streets.

6 Remember him—before the silver cord is severed, and the golden bowl is broken; before the pitcher is shattered at the spring, and the wheel broken at the well,

7 and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

8 "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Everything is meaningless!"

III. Mentor the Young (v. 9-12)

9 Not only was the Teacher wise, but he also imparted knowledge to the people. He pondered and searched out and set in order many proverbs.

10 The Teacher searched to find just the right words, and what he wrote was upright and true.

11 The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly embedded nails—given by one shepherd.

12 Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them. Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body.

IV. Live with the End in Mind (12:13-14)

13 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.

14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

V. Finding Joy

Luke 2:10-11- But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.