



INTRODUCTION

Time is in God's hand, whether pleasant or difficult. Knowing God's sovereignty and his goodness, we should trust the Lord, fear the Lord, and take time to enjoy the pleasant times of life, for they shall not last.

INSTRUCTIONS

This guide is meant to facilitate discussion which will lead to a response to God's word. Therefore, please use it as tool that best fits the needs of your community group.

OPENING DISCUSSION

- Read **Ecclesiastes 3:1-15**
- What do you find interesting/compelling/confusing about this passage?
- Do you find the poem reassuring or troubling?

REVIEW

- Which set or sets of opposites in the poem strike you the deepest and why?
- How does v9 help us understand the meaning of the poem?
- What is the burden/business God has put on humanity (v9)?
- What does it mean that God made everything beautiful in its time?

APPLICATION

- How does this encourage you as you live through different seasons and experiences in your life?
- Why does the sovereignty of God over the times lead us to fear God?
- What does it mean to fear God? How is the fear of God the beginning of joy and peace?
- Do you fear God? How do you know? Discuss
- Were there trying times in your life that you did not understand at the time, but as you look back, you can see God's good purpose in all of it?
- How does knowing that God has a grand plan help you enjoy life now? What are some things you need to enjoy more deeply in light of that reality?
- How can the fact that Christ experienced the same frustrations we feel help us deal with difficulties in our lives?

PRAYER (divide the group based on gender if desired)

- What action/repentance does God want you to take according to the truths of this text?
- Are there any other prayer need