



## INTRODUCTION

What is good for man? That is the question Qoheleth seeks to answer through a series of “better than” proverbs. In doing so he helps us know how to live in our often crooked world.

## 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 6:10-7:14**
- What do you find interesting/compelling/confusing about this passage?

## REVIEW

- Why is the day of death better than the day of birth? Why better to be in the house of mourning than the house of mirth?
- What does he mean that the laughter of fools is like the cracking of thorns under a pot (v6)?
- Why is the end better than the beginning (v8)?
- What are the benefits of wisdom according to vv11-12?

## APPLICATION

- In a word, what do you want your name (reputation) to be?
- How does death teach us how to live? What has it taught you?
- Have your greatest times of spiritual growth come in days of tears or laughter? Discuss.
- Have you ever received the rebuke of the wise (v5)? How did you respond?
- Why should we not speak about the good ol’ days (v8)? In other words, what is the danger of nostalgia?
- What is crooked in your life? How are you trusting God with this path?
- How does knowing you serve a God who has suffered in your place aid you in dealing with suffering in your life?

## 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