



## INTRODUCTION

Qoheleth describes the world as a mess. Time and chance bring trouble. People are unreliable. Wisdom is often defeated by folly. This is life under the sun. Give thanks that there is one who reigns above it.

## 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 9:11-18**
- What do you find interesting/compelling/confusing about this passage?
- Why did the Spirit inspire such a "depressing" book to be written? How have you found the book of Ecclesiastes to be "good news"?

## REVIEW

- What is the main idea from vv11-18?
- What is his point in vv11-12?
- Why do you think the saved city forgot the poor man?
- In what ways does folly overcome wisdom according to vv16-18?

## APPLICATION

- How do you reconcile Ecc 9:11 ("Time and chance happen to them all") and Eph 1:11 ("God works all things according to the counsel of his will")
- Have you found people to be unreliable? Discuss. What should you do?
- Do you live for God's approval or the world's applause? Where in your life do you put too much value on people's appreciation?
- Ecc 9:16 explains God's wisdom is despised by the world. How have you experienced that reality?
- How does vv13-16 remind you of Jesus?

## 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 needs?