



INTRODUCTION

Qoheleth gives us wisdom on how to live in this broken world. As he continues to discuss the fool, we see how the fool speaks and how the fool rules.

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 10:12-20**
- What do you find interesting/compelling/confusing about this passage?
- What kind of damage can words cause?
- What kind of blessing can words bring?

REVIEW

- According to v11, explain what wise words do and what foolish words do?
- V20 tells us not even to think our curses against a ruler. How can we control our thoughts?
- Why does a fool multiply his words (v14)?
- What do you think v15 means?
- Ruler feast. Different kinds of ruler feast at different times according to vv16-17? What is his point?
- Why is sloth so dangerous (v18)? What does folly have to do with sloth?

APPLICATION

- Bonhoeffer writes, "The Christian needs another Christian who speaks God's Word to him. The Christ in his own heart is weaker than the Christ in the word of his brother; his own heart is uncertain, his brother's is sure." How have you found this to be true?
- How does our speech reflect God's image?
- Does your speech pass the "Think test:" T: True; H: Helpful; I: Inspirational; N: Necessary; K: Kind?
- The fool starts his day with feasts/play. How do you start your day?
- What in your life is decaying: relationships; finances; health; devotion to the Lord; etc? What should you do about it?
- Do you obey v20?

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?