



Adult and Teen Life Groups Conferencing Guide

SERMON DATE: 05/20/2018
DISCUSSION DATE: 05/27/2018
TEXT: ECCLESIASTES 11:1-6

I. STOP PRETENDING AND START LIVING.

- v. 2 - For **you do not know** what evil will be on the earth
- v. 5 - **you do not know** what *is* the way of the wind
- v. 5 - **you do not know** the works of God who makes everything
- v. 6 - **you do not know** which will prosper

A. Stop Pretending That:

1. You can know/direct the future.
2. You can do what only God can do.
3. You can guarantee success while avoiding failure.

B. Start Living By:

1. Loving Others Sacrificially.
2. Serving The LORD Fervently.
3. Investing God's gift of life in things that really matter – (i.e. that are eternal).

ASK GOD FOR WISDOM TO APPLY HIS WORD IN OUR DAILY LIVES



We can summarize the purpose of this section as follows: ***The wisest sinner to have ever lived is teaching how to enjoy God's gift of life while embracing our finite/fallen limitations (Ecc. 6:10-11:6).***

1. **Read Ecclesiastes 10:12-14.** What does the content and character of our speech reveal about our relationship with God? Why is this the case? How do we learn to be gracious with our words? What does a fool spend much time talking about that reveals he/she is a fool?
2. **Read Ecclesiastes 11:1-6.** The phrase "you do not know" is found four times in this text. Look at each occurrence and consider how what we do know affects our daily lives.
3. **Read 1 John 3:9.** Do we know how God brings spiritual life to the spiritual dead (i.e. how people are born of God)? What do we know about all who have been born of God? How does God want us to respond to what we do not know? How does this impact our understanding of what we do know?
4. **Read Ecclesiastes 11:1-4.** How do we pretend to know/direct the future? How do we respond to an uncertain future or especially to circumstances that look unfavorable to us?
5. How does fear impact our witness to the community in which we live? What do we tend to conclude about people that we cannot know? How does fear impact our participation in discipleship?
6. **Read Ecclesiastes 11:1-2 & 2 Corinthians 9:6-7.** What does God want/expect us to do with the resources He has entrusted to our care? Where are we to cast them and how should we be giving? What does it look like to be a cheerful giver? What does our culture teach us to do with our resources? What does it look like to give to the Nth degree?
7. **Read Ecclesiastes 11:5 & Job 38:12, 19-20, 33.** Why does God confront Job with what he does not know? How was Job leveling charges against God based on what he did know? How do we do the same thing? What do we wrongly believe that our knowing can keep us from experiencing? How does faith enable us to respond to what we do not know?
8. **Read Ecclesiastes 11:6.** We labor diligently with an anticipation of success. What happens when our labors goes unrewarded, when our good plans actually produce a negative result? At what point does planning become presumption? How do we plan without being presumptuous? What does God want us to do with the SEED He has provided?
9. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:58 & Colossians 3:17.** What do we know? What should our work for the Lord be characterized by?
10. What three things are Eternal and worth investing our lives in? How do we invest them with intentionality that pleases the Lord?
11. **Read 2 Tim 2:15; 3:16-17; Read Psalm 119:9, 11, 105, 130.** How are we to pursue God through the WORD?
12. **Read 2 Corinthians 12:15; 1 Timothy 2:3-4.** How do we spend ourselves for the souls of men? Why must we live with this priority?