



# **Adult and Teen Life Groups Conferencing Guide**

SERMON DATE: 02/11/2018  
DISCUSSION DATE: 02/18/2018  
TEXT: ECCLESIASTES 4:1 - 16

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## **I. A SELFISH HEART WILL NOT ENJOY GOD'S GIFT OF LIFE.**

A. A Selfish Heart leads to Oppression. v.v. 1-3

B. A Selfish Heart is filled with ENVY. V.v. 4-6

C. A Selfish Heart yields loneliness. v.v. 7-8

D. How can we restrain our Selfish Hearts? v.v. 9-12.

E. The Sad End of a Selfish Heart. v.v. 13-16.

# ASKING GOD FOR WISDOM TO APPLY TO OUR DAILY LIVES



1. **Read Ecclesiastes 3:12-13, 22.** How would you summarize Solomon's advice? How do we define doing good? What does it mean to live our lives as a gift from God?
2. What is the key issue that keeps us from enjoying God's gift of life?
3. **Read Ecclesiastes 4:1-3.** Where have you witnessed the kind of oppression that Solomon is describing? How did witnessing such oppression impact you?
4. Why does a selfish heart lead to oppression? How are we rescued from being oppressors?
5. **Read Ecclesiastes 4:4-6.** What motives a selfish heart to work hard and become skillful in his work? Why does Solomon call this a frustrating puzzlement?
6. How is this manifested in the life of a fool?
7. How does the better than proverb in **Ecc. 6:6** illustrate **1 Timothy 6:6,10**?
8. **Read Ecclesiastes 4:7-8.** How does a selfish heart lead to loneliness? What does the proverbial workaholic never ask himself?
9. What will never be found through gaining more riches? How do we know if we really believe this to be true?
10. Why is this a frustrating puzzlement? What was the person who worked so hard to gain riches missing?
11. **Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12.** Do we value Biblical community? Do we cherish the time we get to spend together?
12. How often do we move toward isolation? Why do we go there?
13. **Read Romans 12:16; 15:5, 7, 14.** Explain how we are better living in community than living in isolation?
14. How do we grow together as a Biblical community?
15. **Read Ecclesiastes 4:13-16.** How did the old King become a foolish king? What did he stop doing? (i.e. this characterizes the life of a fool).
16. How does Biblical community keep us from becoming a fool?
17. Why is living for gain (prestige and personal advancement) a waste of your life?