

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sermon: “Worship & Wealth: Reverence & Contentment”

Series: “Meaning: Exploring Faith & Doubt” November 2, 2025

Texts: Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 & 6:1-12 Dave Sattler NSAC

Sub-texts: Deuteronomy 6:4, Psalm 5:11, Psalm 46:1/10, Matthew 5:37

I. Introduction & Review Questions:

- What aspects of “life under the sun” does the writer of Ecclesiastes question? And, how does this sit with you? Discuss.
- Identify ways in which verses in Ecclesiastes have impact mainstream culture. Think The Byrds, Shakespeare, etc.
- How might God use Ecclesiastes to help us process doubts and losses or give voice to our frustrations about life’s injustices?
- How might God use Ecclesiastes to help our faith to grow or bring us square with God’s transcendence?

II. READ: Ecclesiastes 5:1-7: On Worship

III. Questions on Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

1. Discuss instructions the Teacher offers on worship in church.
2. Why do you go to church?
3. What posture should we come to church with? Pastor Dave said, “we ought to adopt a posture of being ready to listen to God.” Discuss.
4. Talk about what it means to “make a vow and keep it” and why that might be difficult. Read Matthew 5:37.
5. When it comes to matters of faith, how can we be honest about where we’re at, rather than pretend? What are the risks/benefits of not faking or pretending? Discuss.
6. What does it mean to have reverence in worship and to “fear God?” Discuss how God is imminent (accessible to us like a friend) and transcendent (to be approached with respect, awe, and, some fear).

IV. READ: Ecclesiastes 6:1-12, On Wealth

V. Questions on Ecclesiastes 6:1-12

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1. Why is material wealth never secure?
2. Why can't wealth, possessions, and notoriety truly satisfy us?
3. Discuss: What things in our week actually have a lasting impact?
4. What's the draw/importance of serving in the mission of Jesus? Name some ways to do this.

VI. Life Application Questions

A. ***Contentment: It is God Who brings joy.***

- What makes it hard to be content with what we have rather than pine for what we wish we had or think we deserve?
- How might we see, name, and enjoy God's daily gifts?
- What do you rely on to bring you joy? And, why? Explain.
- Read Psalm 5:11. How might we look to God to help us find **joy** in the midst of it struggle?

B. ***Reverence: Worship under God's sovereignty.***

- Pastor Dave said, "We don't control our own destiny. Even with our own strong will, powerful thoughts, or good vibes, it's impossible for any of us to 'manifest' what *we* desire. If that's what you've been taught, that's actually superstition, *not* Christianity." Discuss.
- Discuss the "life under the sun" secular worldview (where I am the centre of my own universe and *I* can *do*, or, *be* whatever *I* want). Why do you think this prevalent worldview is not working for people in our world?
- Ecclesiastes reminds us: God is God and we are not. How is this scary? How is this comforting? Discuss.
- Spend some time in **prayer** as a group using Psalm 46 (1/10) as your guide: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. He says, '*Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.*'"