



“God is Good”

The Good Life: A Study in Ecclesiastes
Week 7 | May 28th, 2023
Community Group Discussion Guide

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church-Wide Family Meeting + Potluck

Saturday, June 3 | 4pm-7pm

On Saturday, June 3rd we will hold our semi-annual Family Meeting. This is a chance for us as a church to celebrate God’s faithfulness, to commemorate what He is doing in our church, to worship together, and to look for what God might do in the months ahead.

This year, we are doing it church potluck style! Citizens will be providing pulled pork for dinner. If your last name starts with A-N bring a side, if O-Z bring a dessert to share! We will worship and hear church-wide updates from 4:00pm-5:00pm then spend the rest of the evening eating and hanging out together.

This meeting is open to any current Citizens Member or Member-in-Progress. Childcare will be provided.

MORE INFO

Community Group Basics

Sunday, June 4 | 11am-12pm

We offer Community Group Basics three times a year for anyone who wants to join a Community Group (CG) or has joined one recently. We discuss what a CG is, how they function within the life of our church and what to expect as a part of one.

If you’re about to join, have recently joined or are considering joining a CG, register for 30 minutes of teaching and 15 minutes of Q&A with some of our pastors and staff.

Lunch and childcare is provided, but you must register in advance.

MORE INFO

Membership Class

Sunday, June 11 | 4pm-6:30pm

We believe the church is central to all God is doing in the world. When you read the New Testament, wherever the gospel is proclaimed, people believe, disciples are made, and then churches are formed. When you put your faith in Jesus, you don't just get God as your Father, but you are now put in relationship with other Christians who are your brothers and sisters in Christ. You are now a part of the larger global Church, lived out in small local expressions, such as Citizens Church Charlotte.

This is why membership is so important. It's you committing to play your role in the larger family of God through a particular local congregation.

Our Membership Class is the first step towards membership at Citizens Church. If you're interested in becoming a member at Citizens, or just interested in finding out more about who we are, join us Sunday, June 11th from 4pm-6:30pm.

Coffee + light refreshments are provided. Childcare is also provided, but please register in advance.

[MORE INFO](#)

Community Group Member Updates

Use the remaining time to let group members share any big life updates they have for the group. Examples could be Missional updates/people to pray for, life updates such as moving, job changes, or big prayer requests.

PRAYER + SCRIPTURE

The most vital component of our time together tonight is the Spirit of God making alive to us the Word of God. So we will start with prayer. We will open with a short prayer, take a minute or two of silent reflection, read the Scripture from Sunday, take one more minute of silent reflection, then close in prayer.”

Open with a brief word of prayer: “God, we thank you for this time together. We open our hearts to how you might want to meet with us. Allow us to hear your voice and experience your work among us. Come Holy Spirit.”

1-2 minutes of silent reflection.

Read Ecclesiastes 12:9-14.

9 Besides being wise, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs with great care. 10 The Preacher sought to find words of delight, and uprightly he wrote words of truth. 11 The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd. 12 My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh. 13 The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. 14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

1-2 minutes of silent reflection.

Close with this short prayer: “God, thank you for the book of Ecclesiastes, which teaches us how to live the good life in a place, with a people, with work to do, all with you. Spirit, help us see how this Scripture can help us be more satisfied in Christ, point us in the right direction, and build our foundation on God, living our whole lives in light of who you are.”

As you reflect on Ecclesiastes 12:9-14, what is the Holy Spirit showing or teaching you?

SERMON DISCUSSION

Let's have a discussion around these main points from Sunday's teaching:

PURPOSE OF ECCLESIASTES

In the twelfth chapter of Ecclesiastes, the author comments on the Preacher and why this book was written for us:

- To Satisfy - Ecclesiastes is meant to show us where true joy and satisfaction can be found
- To Sting - Ecclesiastes is meant to bring us under conviction and shape our lives by God's Word
- To Stabilize - Ecclesiastes turns us rightside up back into reality with God and His presence

How have you experienced these three purposes of the book in this sermon series?

FEAR OF GOD

The author ends the book with his summary conclusion – the whole duty of man is to fear God and keep His commandments. This fear, in the words of Sinclair Ferguson, is a *familial fear*. A fear that runs to God in love, awe, and wonder at just how great God is.

How do you see a lack of fear of God in your life right now?

EVERYTHING MATTERS

James 1:22 challenges followers of Jesus to “be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

The final message of Ecclesiastes is not that nothing matters, but that everything does. What we did, how we did it, and why we did it will all have eternal significance. Every deed in the universe is subject to the final verdict of a righteous God.

How can this reality impact your day to day life in the weeks and months ahead?

SERIES PRACTICE

One of our key discipleship values as a church is that of practice. Moving forward, we are going to begin emphasizing one of our key spiritual practices during each sermon series. This practice is meant to coincide with the theme of the series, and something we invite our church to practice as a part of their spiritual formation.

During The Good Life Series, we will be focusing together on the spiritual practice of Sabbath. Sabbath is a 24-hour period of rest and refraining from work to be with God and His people. Sabbath is a perfect practice for this series, as Sabbath is a crucial part of learning to find joy in our everyday life.

For more on the practice of sabbath, you can head to <https://www.citizenscharlotte.com/sabbath>.

This week, we encourage you this week to spend part of your Sabbath thinking through how you use your time. You can use the space below to conduct a “time audit”, asking the Lord, in prayer, to show you ways you are not stepping into the people, place, and work he has given you.

PEOPLE:

PLACE:

WORK:

CLOSING PRAYER

Pray over what was shared in the discussion, for your group to be united in the gospel, and for help from the Holy Spirit to be shaped to be more like Jesus as we put God’s ways into practice.