

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 Discussion Questions

- The book of Ecclesiastes describes life as a “vapor.” What does this mean? What problem is the author trying to identify?
- If the blessings of this life are fleeting, is it possible to still receive them as gifts from God? How so?
- Verses 1-8 describes a time for things that seem desirable, like laughing and dancing, and things we’d rather avoid, like weeping and mourning. Why does life involve both kinds of seasons? What is the problem with expecting life to be constantly one or the other?
- Do you identify with any of the seasons listed in verses 1-8?
- Ben noted that different seasons make some things more possible and other things less possible. What is getting more possible for you in your current season? What opportunities are contracting?
- Ben said, “Be slow to assign adjectives to your seasons”—like the words “bad” or “good.” Why is this important to remember?
 - What are the dangers of interpreting a tough season as evidence that God is upset with us? Or a season of prosperity as a sign God is pleased with us?
- Ben also said, “Be careful about the social clock comparison.” What did he mean by this? What is wrong with the idea of a social clock?
 - Has the social clock comparison been a challenge for you? How has it impacted your walk with the Lord? Your relationships with others? Your joy?

- God's Word says to "rejoice in the Lord always." Is this possible in difficult seasons? How so?
- How can we rejoice with others who are experiencing blessings we don't currently enjoy?
- What is the danger of building our identity around our current season? Why is it valuable to remember that your current season will one day end?
 - How are you currently defining yourself in relation to your circumstances?
 - How does God define you?
- Verse 11 says that God "has made everything beautiful in its time." How should we understand this when we can't see anything good in the moment?
- How does remembering God's sovereignty over our seasons change the way we respond to things we can't control?
- Ben compared the seasons of our lives to scaffolding—it's there today, but gone tomorrow. What final product is God producing through the scaffolding of seasons? What would change if you saw your seasons in light of that finished product, and not as something that defines you?
- The main idea of the sermon was that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). How does Christ's unchanging nature give us hope no matter what season we're in?