



LEARNING TO LIVE

By Preparing to Die

Lessons from Ecclesiastes

Feb. 18, 2024

The Command of Joy ***Ecclesiastes 11:8 – 12:8***

Be joyful as you pursue a life of godly wisdom.

“It seems the more we desire happiness, pursue it, and consume products we hope will help us to achieve it, the less happy and more depressed we become.” - Kevin Corcoran, *Happiness on the Brain*

Remember you are not your own god.

“You may consider yourself autonomous, but you are incapable of knowing what should be done, incapable of knowing what wisdom is. You are a creature...Our problems do not stem from our failure to stay in our garden...All the evils, and I choose my words carefully, all the evils of the world stem from our taking ourselves to be the Creator.” - Jacques Ellul

Joyfully live with eternity in mind.

Other Scripture:

2 Corinthians 5:6-10; Mark 13:32-37

Further Study

Read: Ecclesiastes 11:8—12:8 in your group or with at least one other person.

1. Have someone read it while everyone reads along.
2. Have someone else read it while everyone else listens.
3. Have someone recount the text from memory in their own words.

Discuss:

1. What does the passage reveal about God?
2. What does the passage reveal about humanity?

Act:

1. If this passage is from God, what should change about how you live?
2. Who needs to hear the truth of this Scripture that you can share it with this week? Identify a time this week when you might have the opportunity to share with them.