Solomon returns to a more somber tone in this week's passage of study. Share some injustices that are hard for you to get your mind around. What are some harsh realities of life *"under the sun"* that you've observed?

Read **Ecclesiastes 3:16-22** and discuss the following.

This passage explains how hard it is to see *"wickedness"* in places it ought not be. We can often wonder how evil will be made right or how our deaths are any different than the death of an animal. Have you ever thought about some of these things?

There is a time and season for everything **(3:1)**. These verses remind us that there will be a time of *"judgment."* How might remembering this truth help you in times of worry and anxiety?

Why are our speculations fruitless? Why then do we want to engage with them?

Since we cannot know what will come, nor what will be, Solomon makes a recommendation. What is it?

What do you make of the idea that death can actually give us a perspective we need to enjoy life? Explain.

Read **Ecclesiastes 4:1-3** and discuss the following.

Describe the Preacher's observation. What was most needed and available, yet not extended to the oppressed?

Personally consider the implications of these verses. How should this passage practically inform our lives? Explain.

How does the gospel give us a framework for understanding life's oppressive evils? Describe the advantage we have over Solomon from this side of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection.

Read **Ecclesiastes 4:4-6** and discuss the following.

According to this passage, what motivates our work and toil? What are the things that in your worst moments, you envy in others?

How do **v.5-6** contrast one another? To which extreme are you more prone, laziness or busyness? What might it look like to take steps to fight against this temptation?

Describe how a middle road approach *(not lazy, not overly busy)* might bring greater joy to you and greater glory to God.

How has this passage of Scripture and discussion most comforted and/or convicted you personally?