

SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"FUTILITY OF STATUS" JULY 3 & 4

SERIES OVERVIEW:

It's easy to look at the people around us and think how much greater our lives would be if we had what they do. We get caught up in thinking that the meaning and purpose of life can be found and perfected in the broken world we live in - "under the sun." And yet, King Solomon had wealth, power, a good job and plenty of time for leisure - as much as the world could give. And yet, even King Solomon in all his wisdom, riches, and status, reflects on all his pursuits and recognizes their futility. Under the sun, the grass is not always greener; but in a world redeemed by the Son, the grass is greener.

*Follow the directions below for a guided group discussion with a friend, in a family, small group, etc.
Grab a Scripture Card (printed or electronic) and simply follow steps from 1 to 6 on this page and the next.*

1

OPENING PRAYER:

About 2 minutes

Ask a volunteer to open in prayer.

2

BIG IDEA:

About 1 minute to read

Ecclesiastes concludes the same way it began. Everything is "hevel" vapor. In the end, what we come to conclude is: the essence of life is not who you are, but whose you are. As Americans, on the 4th of July, we celebrate an important status: freedom. But even as we celebrate, we must remember what true freedom really is. We were once enslaved to sin, but Jesus has set us free from sin's tyranny. Let us use that freedom to live in step with the spirit.



July 3 & 4, 2021

That's the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone's duty.
- Ecclesiastes 12:13 NLT

Reflect

Read the full passage in your Bible - Ecclesiastes 12:8-13.
What word or phrase is the Holy Spirit highlighting from the scripture reading?

What might God be calling you to repent of or realign in your life (based upon this)?

What would acting upon this or obeying God look like?



DISCUSSION HELP:

Use follow-up questions to take the discussion deeper. Guide answers to be honest and real.

Can you say more about that?

How have you seen that play out in your life?

What does that stir up in you?

Has anyone else had a similar thought or experience?

What might God be inviting you to do?

3

INTRO QUESTION:

About 10 minutes

What is one of your favorite 4th of July or summer traditions? Why?

4

SCRIPTURE READING + GROUP DISCUSSION

About 40-45 minutes

Read the entire scripture passage aloud as a group and discuss the questions on the card above. Use the [Discussion Help sidebar](#) to encourage deeper discussion.

Read also: Galatians 5:13-16; 19-25. What stands out to about this passage? Why do you think it stands out to you?

What are we free to do according to to verse 13? What is one small act you can do in the next day or two to live this out?

5 LIVE IT OUT:

About 3 minutes

Read this section aloud. Invite the group to take the steps suggested. Perhaps journal or write down some thoughts as a result of your time with God. Perhaps walk while you talk to God. Check in next time on what God was saying to you and what you feel you need to do as a result.

TAKE IT DEEPER



WORSHIP



GROW



SERVE



REACH

Live It Out

Set aside an hour this week to look at your life, inviting God into a time of reflecting on the things that are meaningless and the things that are most meaningful to you. This takes courage. Then invite God to show you what he wants to do with this, how he wants to continue to transform your life.

Pray

Talk to God about acting upon or obeying his word. Remember to be still and listen.

Ask God to give you a new or renewed perspective on what's really important in life.

Thank God for real freedom in Jesus. Thank him for setting you free from the power of sin.

6

CLOSING GROUP PRAYER:

About 15 minutes

Read the prayer section on the card aloud, and take a moment of silence for each person to reflect on the prayer prompt personally.

Share prayer requests. Close with a time of popcorn prayer using the Scripture Card prayer prompts.