

Life Group Discussion Guide

The Way of Love

April 26

LEADER NOTES

What does it look like to serve, pray, or play together while your group is online? Start to think creatively about how your group can practice these healthy rhythms of community even in this season. This might be a virtual game night, coordinating a meal for someone in need, or planning an online prayer experience. Community is more than weekly conversations, so consider ways you can engage with one another during the week.

This week, Pastor Jeremy discussed the various ways people tend to respond to difficult times. This can be deeply rooted in both our view of prosperity and our view of God.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

THIS WEEK'S TEXT

Ecclesiastes 5:8-17 (NLT)

Don't be surprised if you see a poor person being oppressed by the powerful and if justice is being miscarried throughout the land. For every official is under orders from higher up, and matters of justice get lost in red tape and bureaucracy. ⁹ Even the king milks the land for his own profit!

¹⁰ Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness! ¹¹ The more you have, the more people come to help you spend it. So what good is wealth—except perhaps to watch it slip through your fingers! ¹² People who work hard sleep well, whether they eat little or much. But the rich seldom get a good night's sleep. ¹³ There is another serious problem I have seen under the sun. Hoarding riches harms the saver. ¹⁴ Money is put into risky investments that turn sour, and everything is lost. In the end, there is nothing left to pass on to one's children. ¹⁵ We all come to the end of our lives as naked and empty-handed as on the day we were born. We can't take our riches with us.

¹⁶ And this, too, is a very serious problem. People leave this world no better off than when they came. All their hard work is for nothing—like working for the wind. ¹⁷ Throughout their lives, they live under a cloud—frustrated, discouraged, and angry.

LOOK UP

Describe a season of your life when God's provision was most clear to you. Was that a time of scarcity or prosperity?

LOOK AROUND

Do you think the description of the poor and rich in Ecclesiastes 5 is still accurate today? Why or why not?

Do you tend to view God as being demanding or generous? Have you always viewed God in that way?

How do you think your view of God affects the way you respond to hard times?

LOOK AHEAD

What would it look like for you to practice the way of love right now?

PRAYER