
Small Group Conversation Guide

The Selfishness Trap / Ecclesiastes 4

Warm-up: Can you recall a 'selfless act' someone did for you?
What was it?

Read: Ecclesiastes 4:1-16

In this passage, Solomon looks at different traps of self-worship. We see that our world pushed towards pursuing *power*, *superiority*, *comfort* and *success*. All of these, Solomon says, are vanity (hevel) and chasing after the wind. They get us nowhere - they actually lead us into emptiness and loneliness.

1. Solomon looks around and sees all the oppression on the earth. Why do people struggle so much to do good with power and does it reveal to you a need for God?
2. Solomon also looks at the tears of the oppressed, and that they had no one to comfort them. How does this still ring true today in our world?
3. Solomon says rivalry and comparison drive us to work harder. How do you find this to be true?
4. Verse 5 talks about the problem with laziness. David Gibson said, "*Laziness is a way of hating your neighbors.*" Do you agree or not agree with that statement, and why?
5. Verse 6 compares peace with striving to succeed through endless work. Why is choosing peace better?
6. What does verse 7 indicate are the dangers of working for your own success? How are you tempted to work for your own success at the expense of other relationships?
7. Why is community so important according to verses 9-11?
8. Does this passage challenge or comfort you? Why?

Prayer: How can we pray for each other this week?

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