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## Small Group Conversation Guide

### Wisdom and Adversity / Ecclesiastes 7

Warm-up: Name a time where you were involved in something that felt ‘way over your head’, or that was very personally stretching. *What happened? How did it go?*

*Read: Ecclesiastes 7:1-14*

In this passage, Solomon links wisdom with adversity. He says we can learn even from the hardest things we endure in life - including sorrow and grief.

1. In verse 1, Solomon talks about having a good name being better than ‘smelling nice’, or having everything together. *What reputation and legacy do you want to build with your life?*
2. Solomon makes a jarring statement in verse 2. *Why does Solomon say mourning is better than feasting?*
3. *How can our sorrows lead us into living wisely?*
4. Verse 5 in the NLT says, “Better to be criticized by a wise person than praised by a fool.” *Why is this the case? Do you have a mentor in your life who you’ve taken correction from?*
5. Verse 8 says that finishing something is better than starting it. *What do you think he means? Why could it be more difficult to finish something rather than starting it?*
6. What is one idea about wisdom that sticks out to you in this passage?
7. What is one idea about adversity that sticks out to you in this passage?
8. How did Jesus model accepting adversity for us, his followers?
9. What current adversity are you facing? How can we support you?

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

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