

THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

'LIKE CHASING THE WIND'



“...FINDING MEANING BEYOND THE SUN”

Life can **feel like** an **endless chase**—repeating routines and chasing satisfaction that never lasts. **Ecclesiastes** exposes the emptiness of life “*under the sun*,” but **points us to Jesus**, who stepped into our world **to bring true meaning, joy, and purpose**. In Him, everything changes.

WEEK 4 – “Oppression, Toil & Friendless-ness”

Introduction:

On Sunday we heard that Ecclesiastes 4 confronts us with people suffering under oppression, striving out of envy, and living in deep loneliness with no one to comfort them. Yet we also heard that **Jesus**—the Prince of Peace—enters our broken world with justice, mercy, and companionship, fulfilling the hope that “two are better than one” as ‘Emmanuel’, **the Friend who never leaves** us.

Before you begin – “Why do you think people today are more connected than ever, yet often feel more lonely than ever?” ...discuss and then **pray** together!

Read again: Ecclesiastes 4:1–16; 5:8–9

What stands out to you from these passages or from what we heard on Sunday?

Discussion Questions:

1. Look at **Ecclesiastes 4:1–3**. What stands out to you about Solomon’s description of **oppression** and the **lack of comfort**? What do you think makes people feel unseen or unsupported in our culture?
2. Read Ecclesiastes 4:4. Why does Solomon say much **human work** is **motivated by envy**? Where do you see this in today’s world?
3. Looking at Ecclesiastes 4:7–8. What does Solomon reveal about the emptiness of isolated, self-focused living?
4. What truths does Ecclesiastes 4:9–12 teach about the **strength and blessing of companionship**?
5. Instead of **despairing at the oppression** Solomon saw, how does seeing yourself as a new creation in Christ, **change the way you interpret** the injustice and brokenness described in Ecclesiastes 4?
6. Solomon saw **toil driven by envy**. What does it look like to live free from comparison because your identity is **secure** in Christ? (Look at Matt.6:19-21)

Ecclesiastes exposes life’s emptiness **without** God, but **Jesus restores** justice, community, and purpose for us **as new creations**. Let’s pray for His strength to live it out. ...**extra verse** to look at **Micah 6:8** & **John 13:34–35**