



ECCLESIASTES 4

Pastor John continued in our sermon series “the life you’ve always wanted...?” Throughout this series we’ll be going through the book of Ecclesiastes and considering what is meaningful in life. This week we’ll be studying a portion that focuses on friendships. The conversations we are having throughout this series are relevant for all people—whether church or not—so let’s intentionally look for opportunities to dialogue with those around us about what we’re learning or wondering about!

VISION: Explain the purpose of lifegroup.

FAMILY TIME:

- Introduction Question: How have you had to rely on someone else recently? Or when is a time when you had to really rely on someone else to come through for you?
- Share praise reports and prayer requests.

DISCUSSION: ECCLESIASTES 4.7-12

7 Again I saw something meaningless under the sun: 8 There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth. “For whom am I toiling,” he asked, “and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?” This too is meaningless—a miserable business! 9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: 10 If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. 11 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? 12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Discussion Questions:

- What strikes me from this text and why?
- What does Solomon consider to be meaningless in this passage?

- Why does Solomon say two are better than one?
- Who are people that I would help up if they fell?
- Who would help me up if I fell?
- What does it look like to develop friendships like this where I have people to fall and rise together with? How can I develop a cord of three strands?
- What might God want me to do this week as a result of this passage?
- Close this time by praying for each other to step out to build strong friendships.

PRACTICAL EQUIPPING:

These questions of what gives us pleasure and happiness are universal questions that all people wonder about. All of us wonder who's going to be there for us in times of need, yet we don't always cultivate such relationships. Let's engage those around us about who their three stranded cord might be and help them see that our relationships are one of those things that really do matter and are meaningful.

- In under a minute, how might you recount the passage we studied tonight with someone?
- What question might you ask them to get them to reflect on who would be there for them if they fell?
- Then, in under two minutes, share about an experience when someone was there to help pick you up.
- Who are 1-2 people you could potentially dialogue with about this?
- Close by praying for these people and for us as we engage them about things that matter.