



“Ecclesiastes 7:15-29”

FUEL

Small Group Plan

When we fail to live in the light of God’s sovereignty, we tend to drift into a human point of view that limits or even ignores God’s involvement in our lives.

Isaiah speaks of a time when Israel did this. The Hebrew people concluded that God had forgotten them (Isa. 49:14.) In response to this, God said,

“Can a woman forget her nursing child?
And have no compassion on the son of her womb?
Even these may forget, but I will not forget you.
Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands;
Your walls are continually before Me.” vv. 15-16.

Solomon acknowledges that God has everything under control, Lev. 7:13-14. Remembering this helps Solomon shift his perspective. And as his perspective shifts, God’s wisdom starts recapturing Solomon’s life. We see this in the first half of chapter 7 where Solomon gives a number of insightful proverbs on how to handle life. In the rest of the chapter, we see Solomon’s viewpoint come even more clearly into focus as he shows us how to put wisdom to work in everyday life.

Read Ecclesiastes 7.

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- What stood out to you as you read this chapter? Why?
- Did you notice anything in this chapter that you haven’t noticed before?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

An Analysis of Wisdom

- Where do many people look for wisdom today?
- What is the nature of wisdom? Where does it come from?

Someone said, “Wisdom is the God-given ability to see life with rare objectivity and to handle life with rare stability.”

The Outworking of Wisdom

- How does godly wisdom work itself out in human life? (7:15-29)
- Review some of the characteristics that are produced by divine wisdom and how they help in life:
 - a. Balance.
How can a person be too righteous or too wise? v. 15, 18.
 - b. Strength.
How is strength found in a balanced approach to life in Christ? v.19.
 - c. Insight
 - d. How does one produce godly discretion? v. 23,24.

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

Wisdom is not merely a theoretical concept. God gives wisdom so that we can view life with objectivity and handle it with stability. The good news is that those who belong to Christ can lay claim to God's wisdom (1 Cor. 1:30).

- **Regarding balance: Is wisdom guarding me from extremes? How?**
What extremes can wisdom protect us from?
- **Regarding Strength: Is wisdom keeping me stable? How?**
How can wisdom do its work to keep us stable?
- **Regarding insight: Is wisdom clearing my mind to see reality? How?**
What helps us see reality?
- **Exercise: Wisdom is the God-given ability to see life with objectivity and to handle life with stability.**
1 Corinthians 2 is a full of information on wisdom. Read through this chapter and note the thoughts that best describe both human wisdom and godly wisdom. Discuss. (Use the chart below)

I Corinthians 2

Human Wisdom	Godly Wisdom