

ECCLESIASTES 3:1-14

31 DECEMBER 2023

ICE BREAKER: What is your favorite season of the year: Winter, Spring, Summer or fall? Why?

LARGE GROUP QUESTIONS:

(Read verse 1) In our lives, we will pass through many **seasons**. A season is a significant period of time in our lives that begins with an important life event such as marriage, divorce, birth of a child, death of a loved one, college, new job, loss of job, or sickness.

We may also enter a season of life because of significant persons, such as a spouse, children, parents, friend, or even enemy.

1. Describe a **recent season**, a significant period of time, in **your life**.

(Read verses 1-3) **God places seasons** in our lives **to teach us** at least one great lesson: **We are not in charge. We cannot control a season**, no matter how hard we try to control the events or people in our lives. **Neither** can we **skip a season** of life, no matter how much we run or try to escape from it. *“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.”*

Some resist passing from high school to adulthood. Teens may resist the demands adulthood brings with it. Some resist passing from singleness to married life due to the responsibilities marriage brings. Others may not want to enter a necessary season of grief after a loss of a relationship or loved one.

2. Describe a **difficult season** in your life **you did NOT adjust well** into.

(Read verses 11-14) Many times we do not see God’s hand or His purpose in the seasons of our lives. Yes, we can see Him in seasons of blessing and joy, but He seems hidden in our seasons of pain and loss. The **problem** is not with God, but **with us**. We often *“cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”*

That is, we often do not understand **God’s purpose** for the seasons of our lives. One of those purposes is to **develop** in us **faith and character that last**, that will **endure past the season we are in**. So we may say, *“I know that everything God does will endure forever.”*

3. From the seasons of your life, what is a **life lesson** you **learned** or important **habit** you **developed**?

(Read verse 14) God not only sets the seasons of our lives to establish character and habits in us that will endure through all seasons, but more importantly God does so for an even greater purpose: *“God does it so men will revere Him.”*

In seasons of **plenty**, we can know “that every good and perfect gift is **from above**.” (James 1:17) In seasons of **pain and loss**, that “even though I walk through the **valley of the shadow of death...You are with me**.” (Psa. 23:4) In seasons of **despair**, we can cry out, “I lift up my eyes to the hills—**where does my help come from?** My help comes from **the Lord**.” (Psa. 121:1-2)

God sets every season that we may know Him and trust Him.

4. Looking back at the seasons of your life, what have you **learned most about God**?

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE & USE PRAYER LIST AS BIBLE BOOK MARKER

PRAYER GROUP TIME

(Make a list of people whom those in your group plan to share Jesus with this week or invite to Celebration.)
