

## Chasing After Control

Ecclesiastes 3:1-17

### Taking it Home:

1. Consider one of the painful things going on in your life right now. This passage can help you trust God in the things you do not understand, where you struggle to see how they might be used as part of His plan. Take some time in prayer to bring this struggle to God and ask Him to help you trust Him more.
  
2. Were there trying times in your life that you did not understand at the time, but as you look back, you can see God's good purpose in all of it? What were they and how did God use them? Thank the Lord for this tangible evidence of His care for you. How might reflecting on this truth help you in your present situation?

### Prayer Concerns:

### The Problem with Control:

1. Our control is \_\_\_\_\_; God's control is \_\_\_\_\_. [vs. 1-8]
  
2. We see \_\_\_\_\_; God sees \_\_\_\_\_. [vs. 9-11]
  
3. The need for control can drive us \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ God. [vs. 14]

### What do we do when we don't understand?

1. Trust that our \_\_\_\_\_ God is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. [vs. ]
  
2. Know that God is working to make \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_. [vs. 11,15]
  
3. Enjoy the \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ God has given you. [vs. 13]
  
4. Anticipate the day when God will \_\_\_\_\_. [vs. 17]

## **Personal Study/Growth Group Discussion Questions**

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### **Getting Started:**

1. Describe the biggest “why” of your life?

### **Digging Deeper:**

#### **Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-17**

1. What season or time of life are you in right now? (on top of the world; in the pits of despair; etc.) What posture toward God are you taking in this season of your life? (trusting; trying to control it; questioning; hoping; wrestling).
2. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1, 14; Matthew 10:29-31, Job 42:1-3, Romans 9:19-21. What emotions surface as you consider that God appoints the times and seasons of life (including your life)?
3. Verse 13 tells us that it is a “gift of God” to find satisfaction in the little things of life, regardless of the season. What little things do you need to learn to enjoy as a gift from God? Does belief in God’s sovereignty free you to enjoy life? How so?
4. Read verse 16 and 17, what truth is the Teacher revealing about God’s activity in the world? How does this make you feel about the things in your life that don’t make sense?
5. Read Galatians 4:4 and Romans 5:6 followed by Acts 3:21 and Luke 21:25-28. What do these passages say about God’s timing? How does this help you hang on in the midst of a world that seems out of control?
6. Read the outline section: “What to do when we don’t understand.” Which of these four areas do you need to focus on right now?