

Prayer Concerns:

Better Than One
Ecclesiastes 4:4-12 [Page 1038]

A. The dangers of choosing a lonely life. [4-8]

1. Treating _____ as _____
2. Becoming _____ in our _____
3. Failing to _____ with what we have.

B. The blessings of Christ-centered companionship. [9-12]

1. _____ in _____ and _____
2. _____ when we _____
3. _____ when _____
4. _____ when we're _____

C. The plain truth about companionship under the sun.

1. _____ runs the risk of _____
2. Jesus is the _____ who _____

Personal Study/Growth Group Discussion Questions

Getting Started:

1. Who is your closest friend? What do you appreciate about him or her?

Digging Deeper:

Read Ecclesiastes 4:4-12

1. Finding contentment can be a real struggle in our culture. What do verses 4-8 say about contentment? Also see Hebrews 13:5, Philippians 4:11-13 and 1 Timothy 6:6-8.
2. What place does work hold in your life? What do you expect from your work or want it to do for you?
3. A true friend helps lift us up when we've fallen. Better yet, a true friend speaks corrective words *before* we've fallen! Read Proverbs 17:10 and 27:6. What keeps us from calling one each other out when we've gotten off track?

4. There are indeed times of disappointment in even the best human relationships and friendships. What are we do when we've been disappointed by a friend? When we disappoint a friend?

5. Read verse 12. From an *above the sun* perspective, the third strand is Christ. How does Jesus add strength to our relationships, marriages, and friendships?

Taking it Home:

1. Ask yourself the question the Teacher asks himself in verse 8: "For whom am I toiling, and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?"
2. Do you have at least one true friend in your life?