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**Death and Joy**

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 9

## Four Principles:

1. God is in Control (8:17-9:3, 11-12)
  
2. We have Hope (9:4-6, 13-18)
  
3. Accept the Gift (9:9)
  - Dependence
  
  - Contentment
  
4. Live the Gospel! (9:7-10)
  - Joy is only found through Jesus.
  - He gives us glimpses of joy:
    - In our feasting. (9:7-8)
  
    - In our families/relationships. (9:9)
  
    - In our function. (9:10)

# At Home Study Guide

For the week of March 19, 2023

*There is tension in this life between our expectations and reality. We seek what can satisfy us, but nothing in this world ever will. Solomon already went on this quest for us, and in Ecclesiastes, he provides wisdom from God. “[T]his is not the kind of book that we keep reading until we get the answer, but the kind of book that helps us know how to serve God when we do not have all the answers.” (Philip Ryken) Join us on this quest for the one who can truly satisfy.*

1. As you look back through Ecclesiastes (and the whole Bible) what verses encourage you that God is in control?

2. Have you ever considered that you are part of a story that is bigger than yourself? Reflect on your own life. Who has God used in your life to help you trust God?

3. Your life is a gift from God to you, the good parts as well as the hard parts. Read Philippians 1:6. In what areas has God been bringing about growth in you?

4. In what ways have you struggled with enjoying life by making the things of life too important? How can you better enjoy life in Christ as a gift and not enjoy life as the end goal?