



Small Group/ Reflection Notes

	25-06-2023	YOLO! Live in the dash	
 Start	<input type="checkbox"/> Where have you seen beauty this week?		
 Discuss	<input type="checkbox"/> What has been your best/ most enjoyable stage of life to date? And hardest? <input type="checkbox"/> Danny said, when dealing with the highs and lows of life, we can sometimes confuse the 'departure lounge' with our final destination? What did he mean? Does this metaphor work/ help?		
 Read	<u>Ecclesiastes 3:1-15</u>	 Listen again	ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Watch
 Explore	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.1</u> : How would you describe your current 'season of your life'? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.2-8</u> : This lists 28 'seasons of life', in paired opposites. Which of these stand out for you? Which have applied to you? When? How? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.5b</u> : There's a time for having sex and a time for not having sex. How is the same word used/ what is happening in <u>Song of Songs 2:6</u> ? Why is it that we are sometimes more coy than God about intimacy/ bodily functions of life? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.11a</u> : How, even in some of the most difficult 'seasons of life' can we still experience 'beauty'? e.g. the kindness of strangers, laughter in a hospice... When, in tough times, have you experienced or seen such 'beauty'? Why does Ecclesiastes say, don't deny/ escape the 'tough times'; instead, become even more present in moment, whether good or bad? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.11b</u> : Why, when we see 'beauty', is it 'heavenly'? What does it mean to have 'eternity within us'? How does having an eternal perspective help us deal with the real life, here & now? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.15</u> : Ecclesiastes says, don't look back in anger/ dwell on the past (it's happened, there's nothing you can do to change it) or be anxious about the future (what might or might not happen). How is this liberating? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.12</u> : At funerals we remember someone by their birth and death e.g. 1968 – 2023. Why, in effect, is Ecclesiastes saying, 'live in the dash'? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.14</u> : What does it mean to 'fear God'? How is this so often misunderstood/ misused, and so discredits God?		
 Go further	<input type="checkbox"/> Watch the Bible Project overview of the <u>Book of Ecclesiastes</u> (8 mins) <input type="checkbox"/> Some imply God has predetermined our life, from birth to death and everything in between, like a jigsaw, with each piece being another 'life event'. Do you find this helpful or unhelpful? Why? How does this contrast with <u>Ecclesiastes 1:2</u> ?		
 Reflect	<input type="checkbox"/> Which one verse stands out to you? Why do you think it grabs your attention? <input type="checkbox"/> Which verse(s) will you need to think more about? Why? <input type="checkbox"/> What does it mean for you to 'live in the dash'?		

 Do	<input type="checkbox"/> Take a moment to identify the beauty that is all around you?
 Pray	
 My questions:	

If you're not yet in a small group, why not join one! Check out: ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/SmallGroups
 Can't see a group to suit your availability/interest? Start one! SmallGroups@ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk.