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# Making the most of a time for everything

*Ecclesiastes 3-4:3*

## ECCLESIASTES 3

### 3

#### THE MYSTERY OF TIME

There is an occasion for everything,  
and a time for every activity under heaven:

- <sup>2</sup> a time to give birth and a time to die;  
a time to plant and a time to uproot;
- <sup>3</sup> a time to kill and a time to heal;  
a time to tear down and a time to build;
- <sup>4</sup> a time to weep and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn and a time to dance;
- <sup>5</sup> a time to throw stones and a time to gather stones;  
a time to embrace and a time to avoid embracing;
- <sup>6</sup> a time to search and a time to count as lost;  
a time to keep and a time to throw away;
- <sup>7</sup> a time to tear and a time to sew;  
a time to be silent and a time to speak;
- <sup>8</sup> a time to love and a time to hate;  
a time for war and a time for peace.

<sup>9</sup>What does the worker gain from his struggles? <sup>10</sup>I have seen the task that God has given the children of Adam to keep them occupied. <sup>11</sup>He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also put eternity in their hearts, but no one can discover the work God has done from beginning to end. <sup>12</sup>I know that there is nothing better for them than to rejoice and enjoy the good life. <sup>13</sup>It is also the gift of God whenever anyone eats, drinks, and enjoys all his efforts. <sup>14</sup>I know that everything God does will last forever; there is no adding to it or taking from it. God works so that people will be in awe of him. <sup>15</sup>Whatever is, has already been, and whatever will be, already is. However, God seeks justice for the persecuted.

#### THE MYSTERY OF INJUSTICE AND DEATH

<sup>16</sup>I also observed under the sun: there is wickedness at the place of judgment and there is wickedness at the place of righteousness. <sup>17</sup>I said to myself, "God will judge the righteous and the wicked, since there is a time for every activity and every work." <sup>18</sup>I said to myself, "This happens so that God may test the children of Adam and they may see for themselves that they are like animals." <sup>19</sup>For the fate of the children of Adam and the fate of animals is the same. As one dies, so dies the other; they all have the same breath. People have no advantage over animals since everything is futile. <sup>20</sup>All are going to the same place; all come from dust, and all return to dust. <sup>21</sup>Who knows if the spirits of the children of Adam go



# Life Group Discussion Guide

## Lean In

Do you tend to resist change, welcome it when it comes, or even seek it out? Why?

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## Look Down

**Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 (pg. 26).** What do you notice about the balance of positive and negative seasons described in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Look Out

How does our culture try to control or eliminate uncomfortable seasons of life?

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## Look In

How does the idea of eternity in our hearts shape the way we endure difficult seasons?

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# Family Discussion Questions

## Questions for Kids

What do you wish would never change? \_\_\_\_\_

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Why do you think it's good that God stays the same? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Questions for Youth

What age was the happiest time of your life so far? \_\_\_\_\_

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How do you see God's faithfulness in all seasons of your life?

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RHYTHM  
REMINDER



Serve the  
Community

