



Session 4

BIG IDEA

Ecclesiastes begs the young to love and obey God now rather than pretending like it is something for later in life when you "grow up." The wisdom of God is like compound interest this side of heaven. The sooner you become an investor, the greater the dividends are over time.

GROUP OPENER

Share a piece of wisdom someone imparted when you were young and has paid dividends. Or share a wisdom you wish you had embraced sooner and why.

GROUP DISCUSSION

- Read this longer passage Ecclesiastes 12:1-14. Twice out loud, in different versions of the Bible – everyone listens.
- What are some significant observations you have about this text? What stood out? What didn't you like? What was confusing?
- What does this passage teach us about God? How does it change how I see God?
- What does this passage teach us about humanity/ourselves? How would it change how I treat others?
- What does this passage teach us about obedience? How should it affect the way I live?

February 9
WEEKEND

As a Group Discussion:

What about the young that can make them resistant to the wisdom of others?

What has been helpful for you in accepting outside wisdom?

"Here is another reason to remember our Creator in the days of our youth: if we remember Him now, we will be able to dedicate the rest of our lives to His service. So, remember Jesus while you still have your wits about you. Remember Him while you are charting His course for your life. Remember Him before you make a lot of bad decisions you will later regret. Remember Him now, while you still have the rest of your life to give for His glory. 'Many have remembered too late,' wrote Charles Bridges, but 'none too soon.'" – Phil Ryken

Read: Romans 12:1-2

What stands out from this passage?

Many have remembered God too late, but none too soon. Honor God while you're young.

ACTION STEPS

I will statement...

- Based on what God is teaching in this passage, what should I do? Reflect for a minute or two and develop an action statement. Put it in the form, "I Will _____". Make it concrete, simple, and achievable.
- Share your "I Will" statement with the group.

SELF REFLECTION

Where in your life have you been choosing to be self-directed instead of living to serve God?

How can you take some practical steps in joining the mission of Jesus?