

SUNDAY - May 10, 2026

The Grind: Ecclesiastes 5:8–6:12 - Bridge to Nowhere

SERMON SUMMARY:

Ecclesiastes 5:8–6:12 - exposes the emptiness of trusting in government, money, possessions, or achievement to give lasting meaning. Solomon shows that wealth and success often increase anxiety rather than peace, and a life spent chasing more can still leave the soul unsatisfied. Even under God's sovereignty, human choices still matter, and people remain responsible for how they live and what they pursue.

Instead of building life around endless striving, Solomon points toward a quieter rhythm of flourishing: enjoy meals with others, work faithfully, accept your limits, and practice gratitude. True joy is found not in prestige or accumulation, but in receiving everyday life as a gift from God, marked by contentment, meaningful work, shared community, and thankfulness toward the Giver of every good thing.

SCRIPTURE:

Ecclesiastes 5:8–6:12

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What are the four corrective rhythms for a good life mentioned in Ecclesiastes 5:18-20?
2. What is the positive role of government that Solomon envisions in verse 9?
3. Solomon says that even if a person gets everything on their "bucket list"—wealth, honor, and a long life—it can still be meaningless if God doesn't give them the ability to enjoy it. Why do success and enjoyment not automatically go together?
4. The idea of a "bridge to nowhere" is used to describe a life built on shifting targets that ultimately don't deliver. What are some common "bridges to nowhere" people build their lives on today?
5. The concept of a "positive interpretation bias" is linked to being "occupied with joy." How does viewing life as a gift from God change the way a person interprets their daily circumstances?
6. "Affluenza" is the disease of always wanting a little more. What is one area of your spending or saving that reveals an anxious heart seeking security in money rather than in God?
7. Is there a part of your life—your work, your family, your possessions—where you have achieved a measure of success but have lost the capacity to simply enjoy it as a gift? What is one step you could take this week to "savor" what you have?
8. Identify one thing you cannot change about your body, your personality, or your circumstances that you often struggle to accept. How might "relaxing" into God's sovereign care over that specific area free you from frustration and bring peace?