

LIFE Group Guide

Time and Dust

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May 31, 2026



THE ORCHARD

Read: Ecclesiastes 3

Outline:

The opening poem: (3:1-8)

- 14 contrasting activities of life
- Everything is "for a season"

What we learn about God:

- God ordains each season for His own reason (9-10)
- Everything he ordains is beautiful (11a)

What we learn about man:

- He is aware of eternity, yet is stuck in time (11b)
- His best life is to be joyful while being righteous - like Christ (12)
- Take the exertion of each season as a gift from God (13)

What we learn about God's work:

- It endures forever (14a)
- It untouchable by man (14b)

What we learn about God's work:

- It leads us "fear before Him" (14c)
- God is outside of it and all of it is accessible to Him alone (15)

What we learn about fallen man, who is as dust:

- Without God man's highest effort is still tainted (16)
- At an appointed time, God will judge (17)

What we learn about fallen man, who is as dust:

- God is "measuring" mankind to help them see they are beasts (18-19)
- They have no capacity to direct their souls once they return to dust (20)

What we learn about fallen man, who is as dust:

- Without God, the toil of life is all they have to celebrate before they become dust (21-22a)
- Who can bring him to see what will be after he returns to dust? (22b)

Discussion Questions

1. What was something from the passage/message that led you to think, feel, or act biblically?
2. How does this passage connect with our lives today?
3. How does this passage point to or reflect Jesus Christ?
4. How can our toils and struggles be seen as a gift from God?