

2023-24 Aim Check-in

- Becoming disciples who make disciples, who make disciples.
 - Creating a community of faith that meaningfully engages our community of residence.
1. Since you last met as a H2H group, have you made any movement towards the aims we've set?
 2. How might we as a H2H group help support or encourage you towards these aims?

Discussion Questions Set #1

“Again I looked and saw all the oppression that was taking place under the sun: I saw the tears of the oppressed—and they have no comforter; power was on the side of their oppressors—and they have no comforter. And I declared that the dead, who had already died, are happier than the living, who are still alive. But better than both is the one who has never been born, who has not seen the evil that is done under the sun. And I saw that all toil and all achievement spring from one person's envy of another. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. Fools fold their hands and ruin themselves. Better one handful with tranquillity than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind. Again I saw something meaningless under the sun: There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth. “For whom am I toiling,” he asked, “and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?” This too is meaningless— a miserable business!” (Ecclesiastes 4:1-10)

1. Have you ever wrestled with the thought “where does comfort come from for the oppressed?”? How would you answer this question if it were asked of you?
2. Discuss the tension that exists as we live in the in-between world where on one hand we know that in Jesus' name all oppression will cease, yet we still witness instances of oppression all around us.
3. In sermon, it was suggested that we must reject the passive stance taken by the Teacher and instead be a people who are meek, merciful and active makers of peace, while we await the fulfilment of Christ's promise to finally end oppression. What might it look like to practically do this in your context?
4. Discuss the Teacher's three options for dealing with oppressive toil: laziness, fervent toil, or pursuing rest with one hand, leaving the other free to toil. Why might all of these fall short of providing real solutions for perceived oppression?

Discussion Questions Set #2

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.” (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

In our passage today, it was suggested that the Teacher of Ecclesiastes finally offers some positive commentary on the topic of companionship.

1. When you think of companionship, what kinds of relationships immediately spring to mind?
2. Often this passage is used to make reference to the marital relationship, but what benefit might it offer if we expand the concept of companionship beyond this relationship?
3. In sermon, it was suggested that incredible strength comes when our relationships with others are wound around the central cord of Jesus. What might it practically look like to engage in companionship relationships with Christ at the centre? How might this differ from relationships where Jesus is not a central cord?
4. Discuss the following quote: *The third strand that is Jesus has already caused all oppression to cease. When we build our relationships around this reality, we will be drawn into His oppression ceasing reality.*