

## **ECCLESIASTES**

# FBC FORTUNA MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

1976 Scenic Drive Fortuna CA 95540 fbcfortuna.com 707.725.2595 fbcfortuna@outlook.com Sunday Worship 11:00 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Men's Bible Study\* Last Thursday 6:30 PM Women's Study\* 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 6:30 PM \*Kid's Bible Study 2<sup>nd</sup> & last Thursday 6:30 PM

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## **Introduction**

#### **BIBLICAL MANHOOD**

The apex of being a man is not being married, employed, wealthy, or healthy. The apex of manliness is godliness. Being a man first requires being male and second, it requires being of the age of adulthood. Men are adult males. Godly men are adult males who submit in all ways to the authority of God and Jesus Christ as their Savior. This study is designed specifically for men, both young and old, who are seeking to become godly men. We welcome and encourage the participation of any male who is twelve (+/-) years old or older. This monthly study will be a training ground to equip men to lead in the church, in the home, and in any other area of life that a man is appointed to exercise authority or have influence.

In the life span of a man, many different life stages will be experienced: birth, childhood, education, singleness, marriage, employment, extended unemployment, fatherhood, being a grandfather or uncle, widower, and death. Not every man experiences all of these life stages, but being a man will certainly flavor how we respond to each of these stages. Godly men prepare for these life stages by being steeped in the Scriptures, by surrounding themselves with other godly men, and by appropriately planning before, during, and after these life stages.

Men, it is primarily your responsibility to lead. Not as overlords, but in the example that Christ left for us. Husbands and fathers, it is primarily your responsibility to evangelize and disciple (educate in the faith) your wife and children. Younger men, it is your responsibility to humble yourself and to learn from the older men in the church. Older men, it is your responsibility to invest in and to pour into the younger men so that one day they too might do the same. To achieve these ends, it is necessary that we embrace the gift of the church community for the benefit of teaching, reproof, exhortation, and training based upon the careful studying of the Bible.

#### **PURPOSE**

Men make men. This is the reason why this Men's Bible Study exists. Boys need to see godly men to become godly men. But our definition of what a godly man is must be derived from the word of God. Therefore, to become men and to make men we must study the word of God.

The word of God is the purest form of counsel. If you need wisdom, then search the word of God. If you want to defeat sin (*idolatry*, *adultery*, *pornography*, *drug use*, *drunkenness*, *anger*, *evil intentions*), then search the word of God. If you want to be a better husband, father, son, employee, or friend, then search the word of God. Above all, if you want to be more like Christ, then search the word of God!

Any life stage a man might be in, he will discover that this Men's Bible Study will prove to be of great benefit. This is because this Men's Bible Study is focused on seeking the testimony of Jesus Christ and how that changes our everyday lives. The testimony of Jesus Christ as revealed in the word of God is the final authority of salvation, godliness, and manliness. If this biblical reality is ignored then significant damage will follow. But if this biblical reality is understood then the benefits will be great indeed!

#### **HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE**

This Men's Bible Study is designed to help you become better at studying the Bible. Studying the Bible is hard. That is why it is a discipline. But men do hard things. That is why one of the manliest things you can do is study the Bible well. Good Bible study will never be an easy task. However, there are some things that we can do to make Bible study more fruitful. Here are 7-steps that you can use to study the Bible personally. These 7-steps will also be used throughout this Men's Bible Study. Hopefully, as you faithfully and consistently apply these 7-steps you will grow in your love of the word of God and ultimately become a more godly man as you seek to know God rightly. It is expected that each man has properly prepared for each study in advance. The study itself is not designed to be a walk in the park. But neither is it meant to a burden. Therefore, before you come to each monthly study be sure you have prepared well!

**Step 1: Pray** Ask God for wisdom and understanding

**Step 2: Read** *Look at the text* 

**Step 3: Study**Ask Questions - Make Observations **Step 4: Interpretation**What is the main point of the text?

**Step 5: Theology** What does the text teach about God? The gospel?

**Step 6: Application** How should this text be applied?

**Step 7: Community** *Teach, Listen, Discuss* 

#### **DISCIPLESHIP**

We cannot learn to properly study the Bible without discipleship. Discipleship is how we learn to study the Bible. Discipleship includes a commitment to a local body of believers (a church). But it also includes living in daily relationship with other believers who pour into us and whom we also pour into. Every Christian is called to disciple others in the commands of Christ. Men must lead by example in this area. As an analogy, it has been said that every Christian needs a *Paul*, a *Barnabas*, and a *Timothy* in his life. A *Paul* is someone who pours into you, like a father into a son. This is someone who is more mature in the faith and helps you grow in your faith. A *Barnabas* is someone who pours into you as much as you pour into him. This is a friendship of mutual benefit. A *Timothy* is someone who you pour into. This is usually a person less mature in the faith than you. It is highly encouraged that no matter where you are in your walk that you have these three (3) different discipleship relationships. So, who is your *Paul*, your *Barnabas*,

and your *Timothy*? Perhaps they are already a member of FBC or perhaps they are not yet a member of the FBC community.

Who is my Paul?
Who is my Barnabas?
Who is my Timothy?

#### **STUDY**

This Men's Bible Study will include three parts every time we meet: Singing, Study, and Prayer.

#### SINGING

We are not rock stars. We are worshippers of the triune God. Men must learn to sing so that they can lead the church in loud worship through song. Therefore, each Men's Bible Study will begin with a time of singing.

#### **STUDY**

Each month we will look at a new section of Scripture. It is required that each participant reads, studies, and fills out the questions prior to class. We will also have a portion each week where we discuss being a man based on the questions

#### **PRAYER**

If we are to succeed in being godly men it will be because we are dependent on God. This dependency is displayed through prayer. Therefore every Men's Bible Study will end with a time of prayer. We will break into groups of 2-3 men and pray for each other.

#### WHY ECCLESIASTES?

This summer (2019) FBC Fortuna will be going through a sermon series called *Summer of Suffering*. It is hoped that during this sermon series FBC Fortuna will gain a biblical theology of suffering. But as it normally goes in the Christian faith, God never allows us to learn without also testing what we are learning. Therefore it seems appropriate for the men of FBC Fortuna to prepare for suffering ahead of time to lead their families and community in suffering well. The leadership will require both knowledge and the biblical wisdom needed to endure seasons of suffering. When it comes to wisdom and suffering, the book of Ecclesiastes excels in both. This is why Ecclesiastes will become the training ground for the men of FBC Fortuna to prepare for the suffering that every follower of Jesus is promised to experience.

#### **RESOURCES: ECCLESIASTES**

- **Video Introduction** | https://thebibleproject.com/explore/ecclesiastes/
- Online Bible | esv.org
- Sermons on Ecclesiastes | https://musicatheologica.com/category/ecclesiastes/

## **Ecclesiastes 1:1-18**

## Step 1: Pray | Ask God for wisdom and understanding

Write down a simple prayer asking God for wisdom and understanding:

Write down an important prayer request:

#### Step 2: Read | Look at the text

Read: Ecclesiastes 1:1-18

## Step 3: Study | Ask Questions - Make Observations

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<u>Step 4</u>	: Interpretation   What is the main point of the text?  Write down the meaning of the text in one sentence.

## Step 5: Theology | What does the text teach about God? The gospel?

Write down what this text teaches about God

Write down one way this text impacts your role as a man

Write down one way this impacts your role as a leader, in your home, in your family (husband, father, son, etc.), as an employee, or as a student

Write down one way this text impacts my hobbies, interests, past time activities

#### **Step 7: Community |** *Teach, Listen, Discuss*

Men's Bible Study 2019 Ecclesiastes
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## Homework: Questions to review/answer

1.	What are some Bible passages about Biblical Manhood	1? What do these passages teach:
2.	What are some Bible passages about young men?	What do these passages teach?
3.	What are some Bible passages about older men?	What do these passages teach?

## **Ecclesiastes 2:1-26**

## Step 1: Pray | Ask God for wisdom and understanding

Write down a simple prayer asking God for wisdom and understanding:

Write down an important prayer request:

## Step 2: Read | Look at the text

Read: Ecclesiastes 2:1-26

#### **Step 3: Study |** Ask Questions - Make Observations

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#### **Step 7: Community |** *Teach, Listen, Discuss*

## Homework: Questions to review/answer

1.	What are some Bible passages about being single?	What do these passages teach?
2.	What are some Bible passages about being married?	What do these passages teach?
3.	What are some Bible passages about being a father?	What do these passages teach?
4.	What are some Bible passages about being a son?	What do these passages teach?

## **Ecclesiastes 3:1-22**

## Step 1: Pray | Ask God for wisdom and understanding

Write down a simple prayer asking God for wisdom and understanding:

Write down an important prayer request:

## Step 2: Read | Look at the text

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Read: Ecclesiastes 3:1-22

#### <u>Step 3: Study | Ask Questions - Make Observations</u>

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#### **Step 7: Community |** *Teach, Listen, Discuss*

## Homework: Questions to review/answer

1.	What are some Bible passages about divorce?	What do these passages teach?
2.	What are some Bible Passages about sexual purity?	What do these passages teach?
3.	What are some Bible passages about godliness?	What do these passages teach?

## **Ecclesiastes 4:1-16**

## Step 1: Pray | Ask God for wisdom and understanding

Write down a simple prayer asking God for wisdom and understanding:

Write down an important prayer request:

#### Step 2: Read | Look at the text

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Read: Ecclesiastes 4:1-16

#### <u>Step 3: Study | Ask Questions - Make Observations</u>

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#### **Step 7: Community |** *Teach, Listen, Discuss*

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## Homework: Questions to review/answer

1.	What are some Bible	passages about men	leading? W	hat do these	passages teach?

- 2. What are some Bible passages about men teaching? What do these passages teach?
- 3. What are the qualifications for the office of Elder/Overseer?
- 4. What are the qualifications for the office of Deacon?

## **Ecclesiastes 5:1-20**

## Step 1: Pray | Ask God for wisdom and understanding

Write down a simple prayer asking God for wisdom and understanding:

Write down an important prayer request:

#### Step 2: Read | Look at the text

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Read: Ecclesiastes 5:1-20

#### <u>Step 3: Study | Ask Questions - Make Observations</u>

Write down 25 questions or observations about the text
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## **Step 7: Community |** *Teach, Listen, Discuss*

## Homework: Questions to review/answer

- 1. What areas of leadership are you responsible for?
- 2. What sacrifices do you need to make this year to obey Christ?
- 3. What is your plan to grow in godliness this year?
  - a. If single, what is your plan to use your singleness to grow in godliness?
  - b. If married, what is your plan to grow your marriage in godliness?
  - c. If a father, what is your plan to grow your children in godliness?

## **Ecclesiastes 6:1-12**

## Step 1: Pray | Ask God for wisdom and understanding

Write down a simple prayer asking God for wisdom and understanding:

Write down an important prayer request:

#### Step 2: Read | Look at the text

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Read: Ecclesiastes 6:1-12

## <u>Step 3: Study | Ask Questions - Make Observations</u>

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#### **Step 7: Community |** *Teach, Listen, Discuss*

## **Homework: Questions to review/answer**

- 1. If a Christian, what is your responsibility in the church?
- 2. Who and how are you intentionally evangelizing? (Husbands and fathers, this first begins in the home.)
- 3. Who and how are you intentionally discipling? (Husbands and fathers, this first begins in the home.)

## **Ecclesiastes 7:1-29**

## Step 1: Pray | Ask God for wisdom and understanding

Write down a simple prayer asking God for wisdom and understanding:

Write down an important prayer request:

#### Step 2: Read | Look at the text

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Read: Ecclesiastes 7:1-29

## <u>Step 3: Study | Ask Questions - Make Observations</u>

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#### **Step 7: Community |** *Teach, Listen, Discuss*

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## Homework: Questions to review/answer

1.	What is your	plan for daily,	/private worship?	(Bible reading,	prayer, memorization, etc.)
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- a. When?
- b. Where?
- c. How?

## **Ecclesiastes 8:1-17**

## Step 1: Pray | Ask God for wisdom and understanding

Write down a simple prayer asking God for wisdom and understanding:

Write down an important prayer request:

#### Step 2: Read | Look at the text

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Read: Ecclesiastes 8:1-17

#### <u>Step 3: Study | Ask Questions - Make Observations</u>

Write down 25 questions or observations about the text

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# Homework: Questions to review/answer

<ol> <li>What is your plan to lead or participate in family/household worship? (Read, sing, p</li> </ol>	ray, etc.)
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- a. When?
- b. Where?
- c. How?

## **Ecclesiastes 9:1-18**

### Step 1: Pray | Ask God for wisdom and understanding

Write down a simple prayer asking God for wisdom and understanding:

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### Step 2: Read | Look at the text

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Read: Ecclesiastes 9:1-18

### <u>Step 3: Study | Ask Questions - Make Observations</u>

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## Homework: Questions to review/answer

- 1. What is your plan to participate in corporate worship? (Sundays)
  - a. Spiritual preparation (self/family)
  - b. Engaging in worship (self/family)
  - c. Serving/giving/sacrificing (self/family)

### **Ecclesiastes 10:1-20**

### Step 1: Pray | Ask God for wisdom and understanding

Write down a simple prayer asking God for wisdom and understanding:

Write down an important prayer request:

### Step 2: Read | Look at the text

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Read: Ecclesiastes 10:1-20

### <u>Step 3: Study | Ask Questions - Make Observations</u>

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### **Step 7: Community |** *Teach, Listen, Discuss*

Homework: Questions to review/answer		

Men's Bible Study 2019 Ecclesiastes

## **Ecclesiastes 11:1-10**

### Step 1: Pray | Ask God for wisdom and understanding

Write down a simple prayer asking God for wisdom and understanding:

Write down an important prayer request:

### Step 2: Read | Look at the text

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Read: Ecclesiastes 11:1-10

### <u>Step 3: Study | Ask Questions - Make Observations</u>

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### **Step 7: Community |** *Teach, Listen, Discuss*

Homework: Questions to review/answer		

Men's Bible Study 2019 Ecclesiastes

## **Ecclesiastes 12:1-14**

### Step 1: Pray | Ask God for wisdom and understanding

Write down a simple prayer asking God for wisdom and understanding:

Write down an important prayer request:

### Step 2: Read | Look at the text

Read: Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

### **Step 3: Study |** *Ask Questions - Make Observations*

Write down 25 questions or observations about the text
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	Men's Bible Study 2019 Ecclesiastes
Homework: Questions to review/answer	

# **Homework Questions**

What are some Bible passages about Biblical Manhoo	d? What do these passages teach?			
2. What are some Bible passages about young men?	What do these passages teach?			
3. What are some Bible passages about older men?	What do these passages teach?			
4. What are some Bible passages about being single?	What do these passages teach?			
5. What are some Bible passages about being married?	What do these passages teach?			
6. What are some Bible passages about being a father?	What do these passages teach?			
7. What are some Bible passages about being a son?	What do these passages teach?			
8. What are some Bible passages about divorce?	What do these passages teach?			
9. What are some Bible Passages about sexual purity?	What do these passages teach?			
10. What are some Bible passages about godliness?	What do these passages teach?			
11. What are some Bible passages about men leading?	What do these passages teach?			
12. What are some Bible passages about men teaching?	What do these passages teach?			
13. What are the qualifications for the office of Elder/Overseer?				
14. What are the qualifications for the office of Deacon?				
15. What areas of leadership are you responsible for?				

16. What sacrifices do you need to make this year to obey Christ?

17. WI	nat is your plan to grow in godliness this year?
a.	If single, what is your plan to use your singleness to grow in godliness?
b.	If married, what is your plan to grow your marriage in godliness?
C.	If a father, what is your plan to grow your children in godliness?
18. If a	a Christian, what is your responsibility in the church?
	no and how are you intentionally evangelizing? usbands and fathers, this first begins in the home.)
	no and how are you intentionally discipling? usbands and fathers, this first begins in the home.)
21. WI	nat is your plan for daily/private worship? (Bible reading, prayer, memorization, etc.)
b.	When? Where? How?
22. WI	nat is your plan to lead or participate in family/household worship? (Read, sing, pray, etc.)
	When? Where? How?
23. WI	hat is your plan to participate in corporate worship? (Sundays)
a. b. c.	Spiritual preparation (self/family) Engaging in worship (self/family) Serving/giving/sacrificing (self/family)

### **Recommended Books**

### **Manhood/Spiritual Disciplines**

- Disciplines of a Godly Man by R. Kent Hughes
- Spiritual Disciplines for Christian Life by Donald Whitney
- Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood by John Piper and Wayne Grudem

#### Family/Marriage/Singleness

- Family Driven Faith by Voddie Baucham Jr.
- Redeeming Singleness: How the Storyline of Scripture Affirms the Single Life by Barry Danylak
- Real Marriage by Mark and Grace Driscoll

#### Leadership/Evangelism/Discipleship

- The Reformed Pastor by Richard Baxter
- Follow Me by David Platt
- The Master Plan of Evangelism by Robert E. Coleman

#### **Bible Study**

- How to Read the Bible for All its Worth by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart
- Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem

#### **FBC Confession**

We are a community of believers who are devoted to preaching and obeying the word of God.

#### **FBC Covenant**

Having, as we trust, been brought by divine grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to give up ourselves to him, and having been baptized upon our profession of faith, in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, we do now, relying on His gracious aid, solemnly and joyfully renew our covenant with one another.

#### Therefore,

We are devoted to the apostle's teachings' and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

We are devoted to loving one another.

We are devoted to joyfully serving one another.

We are devoted to praying for one another.

We are devoted to a humility that considers each other better than ourselves.

We are devoted to greeting one another warmly and lovingly.

We are devoted to encouraging one another.

We are devoted to killing sin, in all forms, by embracing confession, repentance, and forgiveness.

We are devoted to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching, and to singing.

We are devoted to discipling one another.

We are devoted to financially supporting those who are devoted to the ministry of the word and prayer, and the spread of the gospel.

We are devoted to supporting those who are poor.

Above all, we are devoted to obeying the commands of Jesus Christ.

If we are ever moved from this community we are also devoted to uniting with some other church where we can continue in the spirit of this covenant.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

Amen.