

Preparing for HomeTeam Multiplication

Session #1 - A Season to Plant, A Season to Uproot

Introduction: Everyone has different “seasons” of life. Part of growing and maturing involves going through times of sorrow, times of joy, times of mourning, and times of rejoicing, just to name a few. Knowing this about the human experience, let’s take a look at what the Bible has to say about the cycle of seasons in life.

[Volunteer to read Ecclesiastes 3:1-14]

Connecting: Each member of the HomeTeam read a set of contrasting seasons found in verses 1-8, (e.g., “a time to be born, a time to die”) and share a time in your own life where you experienced these two opposite seasons. [Leader, begin this activity in order to demonstrate the kind of answer you are looking for.]

❖ What do you think is the purpose for these seasons?

[Seasons for crops are required for growth and maturity, God uses seasons for us to enable us to grow and mature into God’s image.]

Grow: As we can see all of us has experienced these various seasons at some point in our lives; some of these seasons are more memorable than others. As we have looked at these verses in the context of our daily lives, I want us to now examine these in the context of our HomeTeam.

❖ Which of these opposing seasons seem to apply to our HomeTeam at this time?

[plant/uproot; scatter stones/gather them; tear down/build]

❖ Considering your answers, how do you feel about this season of our HomeTeam?

[Allow plenty of time for everyone to respond if they desire, this is an important time for the HT members to gain closure of their time together.]

If the story ended at verse 8, Ecclesiastes would be a pretty hopeless, depressing book. But thankfully, it does not end at verse 8. Let’s take a look one more time at verses 9-14.

❖ According to this passage, for what purpose did God create us? Is it time or something else?

[Just as He is eternal, God created his people for eternity, not for time!!]

- ❖ When we look at this passage, especially verses 11 & 14, in the context of our HomeTeam, what instruction and/or encouragement should we draw for ourselves as we get ready to multiply?

The goal of this evening was to get our hearts and minds attuned to this season of our HomeTeam, the season of multiplying. We must come together to rejoice in what all God has done in this small group during our past eighteen months together. We must also embrace that we cannot continue to stay together as we are if we are to continue to grow, inwardly and outwardly. We must come to realize that this HomeTeam experience is only one season, albeit a very important one, of many seasons that God has used and will continue to use to prepare each one of us for eternity. Using the words of Ecclesiastes, we cannot fathom what all God will do with the foundation established in this HomeTeam and our time together these last 20 months. But we do know that He has made everything beautiful in its time, that everything God does will endure forever, and God's name has been and will be glorified as a result of our meeting together. Our time together has had eternal significance in each of our lives, and only eternity will reveal what all was accomplished through our weekly gathering. So with that said, let's celebrate what God has done in our midst...

- ❖ What would you consider the most important thing God taught you during our meeting together as a HomeTeam?
- ❖ What was the highest point for you in this HomeTeam during these last 20 months?
- ❖ Give one example of how God used this HomeTeam to bless you.

[Leader note: you will probably not have time for all of these so pick one or two and draw out as much discussion as possible.]

Prayer Time:

1. Pray for continued receptivity and even joy at the idea of multiplying.
2. Pray for God to prepare the way for both HomeTeams as we try to reach more people.
3. Pray that God would go before us to take care of all of the logistics of both HomeTeams.