

**Dig Deeper @Home – “Searching for Meaning”**  
**Complement to sermon on October 23, 2016 – “In Time”**

**MEMORIZE – Ecclesiastes 12:13**

The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of all people.

**READ Ecclesiastes 3:1-15**

**Questions to ponder/discuss:**

1. What is this passage revealing about God and what is it revealing about us as humans?
2. If the above is true, what needs to change in your life? What will that look like?
3. Verse 1 talks about “for everything there is a season” and “a time for every matter under heaven”. What might be the significance of the contrast Solomon is trying to draw between trying to find meaning in things “under the sun”(see verses 1:3, 1:9, 1:14, 2:3, 2:11, 2:17, 2:18, 2:19, 2:20, 2:22) and things “under heaven” in 3:1?
4. In the list of opposites (vv. 2-8) is Solomon describing what happens in life or prescribing what one should do? Go through each pair of terms and share whether you have seen it before. If so, where?
5. What might he mean in verse 11, “God has also set eternity in their heart?” What other New Testament scriptures address this inner awareness of something greater than our own earthly affairs? (Check out Romans 1).
6. How does the first set of verses in 1-9 contrast with this thought “eternity in their heart?”
7. After looking at all that mankind involves himself in, daily living and exploration of the greater world and what is beyond, what is Solomon’s recommendation (vs. 12)?
8. God looks at time (3:14-15) much differently from us as humans (3:1-9). What is the difference between the way God and man looks at time?

**Bottom Line - Give a one or two sentence summary of the scripture:**

## Experiential

Sometimes activities help us to understand and process biblical truths. The one below is a suggestion for how to experience the truths of Ecclesiastes 3:1-15. Feel free to use one of these or any you might come up with.

**Guess the Season Pictionary-** *Write each “season of life” on an index card. There should be 28 if you do all of them, but try to select simple seasons to illustrate. Some examples include: a time to be born, a time to plant, a time to tear down, a time to weep, a time to love, a time for peace, etc.*

Play the traditional game of Pictionary. Begin by drawing a “season of life” yourself for them to guess as an example. If possible, divide the group into two teams, each with their own separate paper/chalkboard/whiteboard and writing implement. (Teams should be seated in such a manner that they cannot see the other team’s illustrations.)

Invite two volunteers to come forward from each team. Show them the index card. Have them begin depicting this season for their own team members. The first team to guess correctly must then say, “He has made everything beautiful in its time.” They will then receive a point.

Continue playing until each team member has the chance to draw an illustration. The team with the most points wins. If time remains, play through twice.

**SING** (a suggested song to sing. Use this or any song you might want to sing)

**In His Time** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wo-rGzx2OZk>

This is a classic worship song from Maranatha Music based on the Ecclesiastes 3:11. Let this song be a reminder of God’s great love and perfect timing as we trust Him with our lives.

No matter what we face we can sing praises to our great God through Christ

**Mennonite Hymnal #508 – Great God, we sing that mighty hand.**

This is a classic hymn from the 18<sup>th</sup> century which invites us to see the seasons and times of our lives as all in God’s gracious and loving hands.

## PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

**Sending prayer based on the lesson:** Lord, you have set eternity in our hearts. Teach us to trust you in this “season of life”. Show us today how we can serve you and love others. In the mystery of your providence and promised care for our lives, help us to trust you to live in your joy and to do good as long as we live. For your glory we pray. Amen.