



# mist.

## Week 2 | Mist | January 17

### **Key Focus: Only God can redeem the times and seasons.**

#### **Opening Up:**

If you won 1.5 billion dollars in a contest, what would you do?

How would billions of dollars change your life?

How would you want to change the lives of others?

How might having a lot of money hurt you and others?

#### **Reference: Ecclesiastes 3:1-15**

#### **Discuss:**

1. Seasons come and go without consulting us first. Have you had a good season lately? Has anyone been in a hard season?
2. In 3:2 we read that there are seasons for planting and harvesting. Why is it important to be able to tell what season it is? In what ways do you deal with unwanted seasons of life?
3. In 3:22 we discover that every person has been given a "lot" in life. Even for Jesus there was a time to be born and a time to die. You have been given a n date and an ending date with a dash between. What have you been called to do with your dash?
4. Read this commentary about Jesus. What do you think about this quote? What have you been called NOT to do?  
"[Jesus] never knew the intimacies of marriage, the struggles of parenthood, the challenges of middle age, or the limitations of aging. Even within the sphere of his teaching and healing ministry, there were multitudes of his needy contemporaries in Palestine to whom he never ministered, whether in word or deed. Yet his ministry was perfect and whole, because he did, with complete and single-minded dedication, 'all that he was given to do' (John 17:4). . . . There is a specific work for us to do, and in finding and doing that specific thing to the limits of our powers lies our fulfillment, and our peace." (Bruce Milne, *The Message of John*)
5. In 3:11 we learn that God has put eternity into our hearts. We know that death and the break down of the beautiful world God created is bad. We also know that dumb and evil things happen randomly to people (Ecclesiastes 9:11). Why is random evil so hard to cope with? Does knowing that "time and chance happen to us all" bring you any comfort?
6. In 3:12-13 God gives joy and pleasure as a gift. Have you ever experienced God's gift of joy in a bad season of life? What was that like?
7. Not being in control and being subject to time and chance can lead people down a dark path. Has this ever happened to you? How have you dealt with the reality that you are not God and that you are not in control?
8. Does not being God and not being in control ever comfort you?
9. Read 5:1-3. What is your first impression of these verses? How does worship help you to respond to the hard seasons of life?
10. Pray.