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**Announcements:**

- Hannah Warren needs help on Saturday moving.
- Men's softball league needs a few more players.
- College Student Welcome-Home event- May 17
- Midweek Connection Openers and Music Schedule
- Midwest Young Adults Conference- June 1

**Order of Service for tonight:**

- **Opening Game:**
- **Announcements:**
- **Opener:** Andy
- **Songs:**
  - Here Am I, Lord (on screen)
  - I Will Follow- (on screen)
- **Prayer:**
- **Message:** Pastor Andy



**Lesson 13**  
 “Life is Hard to Grasp”  
*Ecclesiastes 8:1-17*

Life often resembles a challenging journey, full of unexpected twists and turns, like winding roads and puzzling obstacles that leave us feeling lost. We encounter situations that puzzle us, demanding wisdom to comprehend, navigate tough conversations, and make sound choices.

In Ecclesiastes 8, Solomon offers counsel that underscores our urgent need for discernment and discretion. While Chapter 7 urged us to embrace life realistically, Chapter 8 calls us to navigate skillfully by **embracing life discerningly**.

**Discernment is Necessary to Navigate Life (v. 1).**

- Wisdom helps someone skillfully operate through life (v. 1a)
- Wisdom helps someone spread joy in life (v. 1b).

*Other Notes:* \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Discernment is Necessary to Navigate Life’s Authorities (vs. 2-8).**

- Consider how you interact with authority (vs. 2-5a).
  - Careful not to oppose them (v. 2a).
  - Careful not to disrespect them (v. 2b).
  - Careful not to upset them (v. 3a).
  - Careful not to contradict them (v. 3b).
  - Careful not to question them (v. 4).
  - Careful not to disobey them (v. 5a).
- Consider when and how you act (vs. 5b-6).
- Consider the limitations of authorities (vs. 7-8).
  - They do not control the future (v. 7).
  - They do not control death (v. 8a).
  - They do not control war (v. 8b).
  - They do not control wickedness (v. 8c).



Other Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Discernment is Necessary to Navigate Life's Mysteries (vs. 9-15).**

- You need discernment when the wicked prosper (vs. 9-11).
  - Even though they harm themselves.
  - Even though they didn't deserve praise.
  - Even though their hearts are corrupt.
- You need discernment when eternity is considered (vs. 12-13).
- You need discernment when fairness is considered (v. 14).
- You need discernment when today is considered (v. 15).

Other Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Discernment is Necessary to Navigate Life's Findings (vs. 16-17).**

- God's ways cannot be completely figured out (v. 16).
- God's ways cannot be completely understood (v. 17).

Other Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Prayer**

**Scripture:** <sup>14</sup>How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? <sup>15</sup>And how shall they preach, except they be sent? Romans 10:14-15a

**College Student of the Night: John Barfield**

- Sophomore at PCC
- Prayer Requests:
  - Academics
  - Witness on campus

**Single Focus/Cross Impact Requests:**

- Cross Impact IUPUI, Purdue, Ball State, and UIndy
- Potential at IU, Marion, and Butler
- Single Focus (Connect, Grow, Serve)
- Sunday Soul-Winning Efforts
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**Specific Requests:**

- Jack Elms, Kendall Elms, Jesiah Achenbach, and Max Garcia in military training/service
- Joseph LaPointe's back and spirit
- Jessica's Unsaved friend in Mormonism
- Sarah's family's salvation
- Aaron Bott and family- Soldier in Kuwait (Joe Forti's friend)
- Ian's unsaved family
- James as he recovers from his diabetic episode and financial implications (Hau's friend)
- Karen's (Elizabeth's coworker) continued complications from her surgery months ago
- Jessi Gold's search for an internship.
- Pastor Jonah Scott (Andy's friend in WI) still fighting the infection that caused sepsis. Lots of ups and downs right now.
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