

While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease. - GENESIS 8:22

FELLOWSHIP

(Start the conversation and get to know more about the people in the group. You can choose to answer one question.)

1. *Which particular season (spring, summer, fall, winter) would you like to experience (or which is your favourite) and why?*
2. *What time of the day do you dread most? Tell us why.*

MEDITATE AND PROCLAIM

(Scripture to be gleaned from and how we can apply the Word in our lives and encourage others to do the same)

God was pleased with Noah's sacrifice. Right after Noah and all who were with him went out of the ark and walked on dry ground once again, the first thing Noah did was to offer a sacrifice. In response, God has promised to never again destroy everything on earth until the judgment day, when Jesus returns to destroy sin and evil forever. The seasons and its changes are a reminder of this promise.

Season, as defined by Webster's Dictionary, literally signifies that which comes or arrives; and in this general sense, is synonymous with time. Hence, a fit or suitable time; the convenient time; the usual or appointed time.

It is important for us to understand that God works in seasons. Not one season is the same for each person. The length of a season for each person varies too. What we need to know is how to understand the season we are in, learn the lessons that the Lord is teaching us in and through it and know what to actually do in the current season we are in so we could also prepare for the next.

UNDERSTAND SEASONS

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

- **ECCLESIASTES 3:1**

'Zeman' is the Hebrew word for season in this verse which means appointed time. The events of our lives do not randomly happen; God has a purpose behind them. Solomon uses an unusual Hebrew word translated 'matter' or 'event'. This word is the Hebrew 'chephets' which conveys the idea of delight. By using the word delight, Solomon implies that there is a good sense that one experiences by being into a given event at the right time. In other words, there is a sense of purpose and success based on appointed timing—even if the activity is seemingly not delightful. That is why it is very important to understand the season we are in and allow God to speak to us and even shape us in it.

If we try to fast-track our current season, we might miss out on an important life lesson that God wants to teach us. It is also possible that we might end up prolonging the season we are in and therefore, lose the delight in it.

We will understand our current seasons when we ask the Lord where we are at and allow Him to teach us His ways in it.

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. - **JAMES 1:5**

So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. - **PSALM 90:12**

DISCUSS: WHICH SEASON DO YOU THINK ARE YOU IN RIGHT NOW AND WHAT IS THE LORD TEACHING YOU?

ENJOY GOD IN EVERY SEASON

I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man. - **ECCLESIASTES 3:12,13**

We enjoy life by including God in all that we do and being filled with joy. Life can be stressful; all kinds of pressures from people, pursuits, and more may overwhelm us. It makes sense to enjoy life with God. There's no need to be

extravagant, but we can make the most of our days on earth. When we have a right perspective of God, we discover that real pleasure is found in enjoying whatever we have as gifts from God, not in what we accumulate. Real joy should be found in our relationship with the Giver and not with His gifts. To enjoy God is to do the things that honour Him.

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

- 1 TIMOTHY 6:17-19

DISCUSS: WOULD YOU SAY YOU ARE ENJOYING YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD OR YOU FIND IT A CHORE? HOW WOULD YOU GROW AN ENJOYABLE TIME WITH THE LORD?

PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN AND OUT OF SEASON

Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. - 2 TIMOTHY 4:2

Whatever season we are in, the mission stays the same: to honour God in all we do and make disciples. God can use our current circumstances to show His glory and might so that others can see how faithful, powerful and, most of all, loving our Father is. The seasons we are in change but God, who is the same yesterday, today and forever, never changes - that is why we can trust Him.

If we receive comfort in a particular season, we are called to comfort others with the same comfort we have received (see 2 Corinthians 1:4). If we are called to plant and invest in the lives of others, let us do so with love and joy. If we are called in this season to dig deep down and establish our roots, let us be patient because God is growing our foundation before He can cause growth and fruits to come. Ask God for wisdom and strength to not grow tired when you are in a season of harvest (see Galatians 6:9). If we are in winter and the Lord is telling us to slow down, let us do so knowing that God is enabling us to rest so He could refresh and re-energise us for the coming season of work.

In all the seasons and transitions of our lives, what we need to be reminded of is God can use us to speak forth His Word and be a blessing to those who need Him the most. Trust Jesus for He is the Lord of all seasons, for all seasons.

*"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.
He is like a tree planted by water,
that sends out its roots by the stream,
and does not fear when heat comes,
for its leaves remain green,
and is not anxious in the year of drought,
for it does not cease to bear fruit."*

- JEREMIAH 17:7,8

DISCUSS: HOW IS THE LORD USING YOU IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS IN THE CURRENT SEASON YOU ARE IN NOW?

PRAY

(Remember to do this. Pray for one another; for everyone to live out the Word and for any other specific prayer needs)

Pray that God will show Himself faithful and strong in every season of our lives. Pray that the Lord will use our testimonies in every season to bring forth healing, comfort and, most especially, the Gospel to others. Pray that we will always be sensitive to His ways and timings.



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