

INTRO: Most of us in the Moorestown area are planners. We plan our jobs and our families; we have plans for where we want to be in 5 or 10 years; and we have plans for who we want our kids to be. Today, though the teacher confronts us with a terrifying truth, your plans are not God's plans. When we think of the uncertainty of the future, we can either let anxiety cause us to hoard up for ourselves, or we can value generosity; giving freely that we might receive freely when we are in need.

1. Are you a planner? How or how not?

READ Ecclesiastes 10:8-11:6

- 1. What value does the passage place on wisdom?
- 2. What does it mean to throw your bread in the water?
- 3. Reread verse 5. What do you know about God's plans?

SERMON QUESTIONS:

- 1. Based on how you act and plan, do you think that you are in control or that God is?
- 2. When the future is uncertain, does it feel wiser to store up or to give generously? Why?
- 3. Which is a better safety net in disaster: your bank account or your community?
- 4. How do we become a community which cares for each other emotionally, spiritually, and financially?
- 5. Is there anyone who we can think of that this Small Group should be supporting more?

OUTRO: Danger and tragedy can befall anyone, the good and wicked alike. We might not know what God will do, but we know the ways He calls us to act. In an uncertain world, the teacher does not extol 401K's. He calls you to be generous. The beauty of the Church is not in its ornate architecture but in the strength of its community. It is in generous expressions of love for one another that we display Who Jesus is. Don't miss the opportunity to express God's care for another or to receive His care from a brother or sister when you are struggling.

PRAY TOGETHER.