

Meet Up 12 Year End Reflection (or end of Quarter or Ministry Season)

***Before this meet up, prepare the included document and email it to team members as they will use it during meeting time. Feel free to adjust the "season" and the wording to reflect "the end of a Ministry Season" or the "End of a Quarter" or even to "The End of a Project".*

2 minutes Preparing our hearts.

The leader might say something like,

We are borrowing this year-end reflective exercise from Grafted Life Ministries.

At the end of the year, it could be tempting to leave the past in the rearview mirror and never look back. But the last year brought us valuable experiences that are worth reflection and consideration. What has God been doing that we may have missed? Have we processed our emotions with God? What may we need to recognize in order to move into the next year with our hearts open to God?

We're going to take some time alone to consider these questions with God. On your handout you'll find a reflection guide based on Solomon's words from Ecclesiastes 3. Read the verses and ponder the questions that follow. We'll gather back together to share some of our thoughts in about 20 minutes.

30-40 minutes Abiding together.

Participants take handout to a quiet space and reflect. Facilitator watch is time and invites group back together after 20 minutes.

If working through zoom meeting, participants may turn off cameras in order to complete handout in their own space.

At the appropriate time, the leader might say something like,

Let's gather back and share our thoughts. As you share, would you also consider how we, as your 3Story® Team, might come alongside the work that God is doing in you? In other words, what can we do and what should we refrain from doing as we support how the Father is shaping you?

And as a team, we will listen for ways that we can come alongside you. As you share, we will practice deeper listening, pausing after each person shares, to self-reflect and to pay attention in case God is speaking to us through your words as well as speaking to you.

10-15 minutes. Dwelling together.

The leader might say something like,

Let's be quiet together for a few minutes and invite God to bring to the surface any thoughts or actions that he might be inviting us toward.

Group silence for 2-3 minutes.

The leader might say something like,

As we wrap up our time would anyone like to share an action or a thought that God is pressing deeper?

Handout: Year End Reflection

*For everything there is a season,
a time for every activity under heaven.
A time to be born and a time to die.
A time to plant and a time to harvest.
A time to kill and a time to heal.
A time to tear down and time to build up.
A time to cry and a time to laugh.
A time to grieve and a time to dance.
A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones.
A time to embrace and a time to turn away.
A time to search and a time to quit searching.
A time to keep and a time to throw away.
A time to tear and a time to mend.
A time to be quiet and a time to speak.
A time to love and a time to hate.
A time for war and a time for peace.*

What do people really get for all their hard work? I have seen the burden God has placed on us all. Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from the beginning to end.

So, I concluded there is nothing better than to be happy and enjoy ourselves as long as we can. And people should eat and drink and enjoy the fruits of their labor for these are gifts from God.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 NLT

As you consider the last year, what “times” have you experienced this year? Have you processed these experiences with God?

Mark each verse that you want to talk with God about.

As you look back over the year, does it feel as if you have had more troubling experiences or more joyful ones?

Has there been more grief than joy, tearing down than building up, tearing rather than mending, etc., or is the opposite true?

How are you feeling as you end the year?

Talk with God about your emotions.

As you look at the different seasons expressed in the verses, what are you tired of experiencing?

What are you wanting more of?
What sounds like it would be refreshing?

Talk with God about your desires.

Even though we cannot see the whole scope of God's plan, He is making everything beautiful for its own time.

Where have you seen beauty in the last year?

Have you experienced beauty even in hard circumstances?

Might God want to show you more of the beauty that he put into this year?

Talk with God about these questions.

Solomon concludes that whatever fruit we have received this past year is a gift from God .

What gifts did you experience from God in the last year?

How might you celebrate those gifts today?

This reflective exercise was originally published by Grafted Life Ministries info@graftedlife.org