

# NS LIFE GROUPS

NorthStar Church

Ebenezer – Ghost of Christmas Present

Ecclesiastes 2:10-11; 2:17; 1:2-9

December 9, 2018

**Main Idea:** How to deal with the Ghost of Christmas present

**Icebreaker:** Has there ever been a time when you've really looked forward to something or worked really hard to achieve something only to have the reality disappoint you because it didn't fulfill your expectations? (*Examples: A relationship, money, car, house, job, success, an award, possessions, a sporting event or concert, having a kid, etc.*)

## **Study:**

Use your sermon notes, the following points, and the scripture listed to read through and discuss within your group.

### **Three ways the “ghosts of the present” discourage us:**

1. **“I’m frustrated” (Eccl. 1:2-4)**
  - a. Do you ever feel like what is being described in this passage? You work and work but feel like you have nothing of value to show for it?
  - b. Why do we become so frustrated by this?
2. **“I’m tired” (Eccl. 1:5-8)**
  - a. Have you ever gotten to the end of a long day only to realize that you have to do it again the next day?
  - b. What things do you do, besides sleep of course, to get past the perpetual feeling of tiredness that seems to constantly overtake us?
3. **“I’m unfulfilled” (Eccl. 1:8-9)**
  - a. Do you feel discontent with anything in your life right now or in the past?
  - b. Why do you think that caused discontentment or a feeling of a lack of fulfillment?

### **Application:**

On a scale of 1-10, how much would you say you love life right now? Which of the above points influenced that number the most?

Unlike King Solomon in Ecclesiastes, the apostle Paul lived a very difficult, persecuted life in which he suffered many trials. Yet, in contrast to Solomon who had it all but who was discontent, Paul said that he was content with his life.

Read Philippians 4:12 and 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. The key to defeating these ghosts of our present is to be focused on eternity and not just on this temporary life.

### **Four Keys to Becoming More Eternally Focused:**

1. **Praying with Perspective (Colossians 3:1-2)**—Pray: “In light of eternity, God, what do you want to do with my life?”

2. **Serve One Another (John 6:27)**—How can you serve somewhere to help turn your focus away from yourself and toward God and others?
3. **Give It Away (Matthew 6:19-21)**—How can you give generously in this season to something or someone?
4. **Share Our Faith**—Who are you currently in a relationship with that you hope to be able to share your faith with?

**Pray:**

Pray for each person in your group and their various requests. Pray for any specific areas of life that were addressed during this week's discussion.