

# LG Questions Winter '23

## WK 3

### The Puzzle of Time



#### Ecclesiastes 3:1-22

There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under the heavens:  
a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to uproot,  
a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,  
a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance,  
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,  
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,  
a time to search and a time to give up,  
a time to keep and a time to throw away,  
a time to tear and a time to mend,  
a time to be silent 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 workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God. I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that people will fear him. Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will call the past to account. And I saw something else under the sun: In the place of judgment—wickedness was there, in the place of justice—wickedness was there. I said to myself, “God will bring into judgment both the righteous and the wicked, for there will be a time for every activity, a time to judge every deed.”

I also said to myself, “As for humans, God tests them so that they may see that they are like the animals. Surely the fate of human beings is like that of the animals; the same fate awaits them both: As one dies, so dies the other. All have the same breath; humans have no advantage over animals. Everything is meaningless. All go to the same place; all come from dust, and to dust all return. Who knows if the human spirit rises upward and if the spirit of the animal goes down into the earth?” So I saw that there is nothing better for a person than to enjoy their work, because that is their lot. For who can bring them to see what will happen after them?

1. *When Solomon talks about “seasons” in this passage, he is referring to a fixed time with a predetermined purpose. What was the last season to disrupt the regular flow of your life in either a positive or a negative way? How did you feel? How did you react?*
2. *Solomon says, “there is a time to plant and a time to uproot.” Successful farmers work with seasons. In life we must know when to plant new attitudes and behaviors and when to uproot attitudes and behaviors that have turned into weeds. What old attitudes and behaviors have you uprooted ? How did you know when it was time to uproot them?*
3. *Solomon says, “I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time.” The burden is to keep a positive trusting attitude towards God when He allows a difficult season in our lives. How do you deal with this burden? Provide an example.*
4. *One of the life lessons from this passage is that we should be satisfied with life, but never with ourselves. How is God using difficult circumstances in your life to develop your character? What character traits is he working on? Do you think you are cooperating with God?*
5. *Another life lesson from this passage is that followers of Christ live on promises not explanations. Share a promise from God’s word that you have clung to when you have had no explanations.*

*Prayer: Spend time praying that God would use our hardships to form our character and to make us more like Him.*