

Bible Study: “*Living While You’re Alive*”

Text: Ecclesiastes 9:4–10 (NIV)

— Opening

- Brief prayer: Ask for wisdom and perspective on life and purpose.
 - Icebreaker (optional):
 - 👉 “*What’s something simple in life you’ve enjoyed recently?*”
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— Read the Passage

Text of Ecclesiastes 9:4-10 (NIV):

4 Anyone who is among the living has hope—even a live dog is better off than a dead lion!

5 For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing; they have no further reward, and even their name is forgotten.

6 Their love, their hate and their jealousy have long since vanished; never again will they have a part in anything that happens under the sun.

7 Go, eat your food with gladness, and drink your wine with a joyful heart, for God has already approved what you do.

8 Always be clothed in white, and always anoint your head with oil.

9 Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, all the days of this meaningless life that God has given you under the sun—all your meaningless days. For this is your lot in life and in your toilsome labor under the sun.

10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom

— Observation (What does it say?)

Ask:

- What contrasts do you see between **the living and the dead**?
- What does the writer say about:
 - Hope?
 - Knowledge?

- Reward?
- What commands or encouragements stand out?

Key Observations

- The living still have **hope** (v.4)
 - Death is certain, but awareness is only for the living (v.5)
 - Earthly experiences (love, joy, work) are **temporary but meaningful**
 - Repeated theme: **Enjoy life while you can**
 - Strong instruction: **Work with all your might** (v.10)
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— Interpretation (What does it mean?)

Main Ideas

1. Hope exists as long as you're alive

- Even a “live dog” is better than a “dead lion” (v.4)
- Status doesn't matter—**life itself = opportunity**

👉 *Truth:* If you're still here, God is not finished.

2. Life is temporary—but not meaningless

- The passage is realistic (even blunt) about death
- But instead of despair, it points to **intentional living**

👉 This is not “nothing matters”

👉 It's “this moment matters because it won't last”

3. Enjoyment is a gift from God

- Eating, drinking, relationships, daily life
- These aren't distractions—they're **God-approved joys**

👉 This challenges the idea that spirituality = constant seriousness

4. Work matters—do it fully

- “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (v.10)

👉 Not just “big purpose”

👉 Even ordinary work is worth doing well

— Application (What does it mean for us?)

Ask:

Personal Reflection Questions

- Where am I **waiting to live later** instead of now?
 - Am I overlooking simple joys God has already given me?
 - What is something in my life I’m doing halfway that I should do “with all my might”?
 - How does remembering death actually help me live better?
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Practical Applications

✅ 1. Stop postponing life

- Don’t wait for:
 - more money
 - better timing
 - perfect conditions

👉 Start living ***faithfully*** now

✅ 2. Receive joy without guilt

- Enjoy meals, relationships, rest
 - These are not distractions—they’re **part of God’s design**
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✓ 3. Work with intention

- Your job, responsibilities, daily tasks:
 - 👉 Do them fully, not passively
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✓ 4. Let urgency clarify priorities

- Life is finite → focus on what matters:
 - God
 - people
 - purpose
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— Closing

Summary Thought

👉 *Because life is short, it is both urgent and meaningful.*

Closing Prayer

- Thank God for the gift of life
 - Ask for:
 - wisdom to use time well
 - gratitude for daily joys
 - strength to live fully and faithfully
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🧠 Optional Take-Home Challenge

This week:

- **Enjoy one simple thing intentionally** (meal, conversation, rest)
 - **Give full effort** to one task you've been doing half-heartedly
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