

WISDOM FOR MEANING ECCLESIASTES:

INTRODUCTION	INVESTIGATION OF LIFE	CONCLUSIONS ABOUT LIFE	EPILOGUE
1:1 - 1:11 Title Poem on Work: No Gain from all Our Toil.	1:12 - 6:9 Search for Meaning God Set the Times Work in a Wicked World Working Together Worshipping Love of Money	6:10 - 11:6 Handling Adversity Life in a Crazy World Wisdom: Benefits & Limits Death comes. Enjoy Life! Folly & Wisdom Take Risks Wisely!	11:7 - 12:14 Poem on Youth & Old Age: Rejoice & Remember Your Creator The Last Word
1:1 1:2-11	1:12 - 2:26 3:1-15 3:16 - 4:6 4:7 - 16 5:1-7 5:8-6:9	6:10 - 7:14 7:15-29 8:1-17 9:1-12 9:13 -10:20 11:1-6	11:7-12:8

A ROAD TRIP ACROSS THE BIBLE



Ecclesiastes | Nov. 16, 2014

Ecclesiastes has been called the most “contemporary book in the Bible” because it exposes humankind’s perennial quest . . .

- We all long for MEANING and FULFILLMENT “under the sun.”**
- In our longing, we all make GOOD things ULTIMATE things and are DISAPPOINTED every time.**

What good things?

Why do they all disappoint every time?

- The things we long for are only found when we make GOD our ULTIMATE thing.**

Who is this God?

What does it mean to make God ultimate?

- REMEMBER God.
- FEAR God = LOVE God = TRUST God
- KEEP God’s COMMANDMENTS
- When God is our ULTIMATE thing, GOOD things “under the sun” can be ENJOYED for what they are.**

A ROAD TRIP ACROSS THE BIBLE

Questions for Growth Groups



A ROAD TRIP ACROSS THE BIBLE

Questions for Growth Groups



CONNECTING TOGETHER

Share joys and struggles from the past week.

And don't forget . . . snap a pic of your Growth Group and post it on your social media sites using #GraceSLOGrowthGroups.

UNDERSTANDING & APPLYING GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

1. How did you "come under" God's Word this week in the message? What did you think or feel in response to the message?
2. Read the book ends of Ecclesiastes 1 and Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:14. What jumps out at you in these verses?
3. Do you recognize in yourself a longing for meaning and fulfillment? How have you dealt with that over the course of your life? Do you recognize this longing in others around you? Do you think this longing is universal?
4. Share one GOOD THING that you have made in the past or even now tend to make an ULTIMATE THING in your life. (Possible examples: relationships, pleasure, entertainment, work, family, accomplishment, physical prowess or appearance, service, success, money, material things, your social media persona, etc.)

5. According to Ecclesiastes, why can't good things give us the meaning and fulfillment that we all long for?

6. Read Ecclesiastes 3:12-13, 5:18-20, 9:9-10. What are these 3 passages about and how do they counsel us? How do they differ from the some of the other "vanity" sections of the book and how should we understand them? Do you think you are able to enjoy "good things in life" for what they are? If not, why not?
7. Read 1 Corinthians 15:58. How does Ecclesiastes point us to and prepare us for Jesus and the Gospel? How does Ecclesiastes speak of Jesus? What do we know that the Teacher didn't know?

PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray for one another as we strive to make and keep Christ "the ultimate thing" in our lives. Pray that we would enjoy the gifts of God in their proper place.