



ECCLESIASTES 2

Pastor John picked back up with our sermon series “the life you’ve always wanted...?” Throughout this series we’ll be going through the book of Ecclesiastes and considering what is meaningful in life. This week in lifegroup we’ll take time to reflect on the things we’ve pursued for happiness and meaning throughout our lives. These conversations are relevant for all people—whether churched or not—so let’s intentionally look for opportunities to dialogue with those around us about what we’re learning or wondering about!

VISION: Explain the purpose of lifegroup.

FAMILY TIME:

- Introduction Question: What’s something you did this last week that you thought would make you happy?
- Share praise reports and prayer requests.

DISCUSSION: ECCLESIASTES 2.1-11

1 I said to myself, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good.” But that also proved to be meaningless. **2** “Laughter,” I said, “is madness. And what does pleasure accomplish?” **3** I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly—my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was good for people to do under the heavens during the few days of their lives. **4** I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. **5** I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. **6** I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. **7** I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. **8** I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired male and female singers, and a harem as well—the delights of a man’s heart. **9** I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me. **10** I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my labor, and this was the reward for all my toil. **11** Yet when I

surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

Discussion Questions:

- What strikes me from this text and why?
- What kinds of things does Solomon pursue and what is the result?

Personal Reflection: (10-15 min)

- Let's take some time to reflect on our lives:
 - What are things I've found pleasure in? Or what have I pursued for happiness?
 - What has the lasting effect of these things in our lives been?
 - What currently gives me pleasure, happiness, or meaning?
 - What might God want to say to me about the things I'm placing my happiness and identity in?

Small Group Sharing:

- Share some highlights of things you've found pleasure and happiness in throughout your life.
- What are some things God said to you about things you're currently pursuing?
- How might you need prayer in placing your happiness and identity in the right places?
- Pray for each other.

PRACTICAL EQUIPPING:

These questions of what gives us pleasure and happiness are universal questions that all people wonder about. We've got an opportunity to intentionally engage and invite those around us into the process we went through tonight. Each of us wants happiness and meaning, but if we're looking for these things in the wrong places we'll never actually find what we crave. This is why we want to engage those around us and maybe help them discover what can truly give their life happiness and meaning.

- In under a minute, how might you frame your personal reflection time with someone?
- What question might you ask someone to get them to think about where they've placed their happiness and meaning?
- Then, in under two minutes, what might you share about what you've learned or experienced?
- Who are people you could potentially dialogue with about these things?
- Close by praying for each other to engage those around us.