



ECCLESIASTES 11

Pastor John concluded our Ecclesiastes series this past Sunday. Throughout this series we've been considering what is meaningful in life. At the end of Ecclesiastes it seems like Solomon has concluded that most everything we tend to give ourselves to is meaningless. What is meaningful to him, though, is giving ourselves to the people around us and the things God has for us. So as we conclude this series tonight, we'll take some time to think through what this means for us moving forward.

VISION: Explain the purpose of lifegroup.

FAMILY TIME:

- Introduction Question: What's something that currently gives you a lot of meaning?
- Share praise reports and prayer requests.

DISCUSSION: ECCLESIASTES 11.7-10

7 Light is sweet, and it pleases the eyes to see the sun. 8 However many years anyone may live, let them enjoy them all. But let them remember the days of darkness, for there will be many. Everything to come is meaningless. 9 You who are young, be happy while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment. 10 So then, banish anxiety from your heart and cast off the troubles of your body, for youth and vigor are meaningless.

Discussion Questions:

- What strikes me from Solomon's advice and why?
- What wisdom does Solomon give us?
- What am I realizing about what's meaningful in my life?
- What am I realizing about what's not meaningful in my life?

Individual Exercise (10 minutes): Write a letter to your future self about what you're realizing is and isn't meaningful in life. Since this is our last study on Ecclesiastes this is a chance for us to solidify what we've learned about what is and isn't worth giving ourselves to. Hopefully this can then serve as a reminder for us as we move forward.

Small Group Time: Share with each other about what you reflected on and wrote about. Share also how you could use prayer as you move forward. Then take some time to pray for each other as we support each other in giving ourselves less to things that are meaningless in order to make more time for things that are meaningful.

PRACTICAL EQUIPPING:

As we are wrapping up this series, let's make it a point to engage with those around us about what is and isn't meaningful in life. Conversations like this are ones anyone can engage with, no matter where they are with God.

- In under two minutes, how might you share with someone what you've realized about what is and isn't meaningful to you?
- Then what question might you ask them to get them to reflect on what is and isn't meaningful for them?
- Who are 2-3 people you could talk with about this?
- Close by praying for these people and for ourselves as we look to engage with them about what is meaningful in life.