



## ECCLESIASTES CHAPTER 1 (FACILITATOR)

### THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

#### □ Overview of Ecclesiastes

- Although the book of Ecclesiastes may initially come across as depressing and discouraging, this really isn't the point of the book at all. One of the points of the book is to present a life devoid of God, His presence, and power versus a life that is fully engaged with and surrendered to the Lord. The contrast between these two lives isn't just a little different as we see this unfold in visible and graphic ways throughout the book. Solomon shares his life experiences that give us as the readers incredible insight into the choice that we moment by moment and daily have before us, a life tethered to the amazing Creator of the entire world or a life that is tethered to doing things that we think and believe are the best.
- As we journey through this book, there are three pressing questions that should be at the forefront of our minds and hearts.
  - What type of man or woman do we want to be?
  - What is most important in the life that God has given us?
  - What is it that we want from God?

#### **Discussion Starter**

- What verb best describes you?
- If money weren't an issue, what would you be doing with your time and why?
- **Opening Prayer**
  - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

#### **Breaking it Down**

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you must get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of, and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.
- Please use your own style, voice, and approach in preparing for leading your life group. Most importantly, take a few minutes to pray over the time together with you group and pray over each group member by name.

### **Tell the Story**

- **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

### **Read the Story (Ecclesiastes 1:1-18)**

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

### **Ecclesiastes 1:1-11**

- Solomon's self-identification in verse 1 is important because in Solomon, we have a man who has incredible personal experience in having lived a life tethered and surrendered to God and a life that was lived in pure and utter selfishness. He has experienced the highs and lows of both lives.
- Solomon uses the phrase "vanity of vanities" or "meaningless" around 30 plus times in this book. This is one of the prevailing themes in the book of Ecclesiastes. Why do you think Solomon starts out this book with such supposed "pessimism?"
  - It's not that Solomon is saying that life stinks and there is no hope and nothing fun in life. Rather, if a life is devoid of God and His purposes, life really and truly has no meaning.
  - In what ways do you need to do a better of job of keeping the most important things in life the most important rather than falling into the trap of being focused on things that you cannot control?
    - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

- What would you say are some things that are distracting you from staying laser focused on God and your relationship with Him? What reminders do you need to have in place to help you with this?
  - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
  
- Read what Jesus says in Mark 8:36. How does what Jesus says here coincide what Solomon is saying in this text?
  - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

### **Ecclesiastes 1:12-18**

- The phrases “under the sun,” and “striving after the wind” will consistently be found in the book of Ecclesiastes. Under the sun refers to everything done on the earth and striving after the wind refers to the pursuit of something that simply is unimportant because an individual will never be able to “catch the wind.”
  - How can you intentionally seek to be someone who is striving after things that matter eternally in the big picture? How would your life look different were you to do this more consistently?
    - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
  
- What do you think Solomon means in verse 18? Are there any positives to take from verse 18?
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### **Final Application**

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

### **Closing & Prayer Requests**

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time

Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week. (Ecclesiastes chapter 2)

## **ECCLESIASTES CHAPTER 1 (STUDENT)**

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