

Small Group Bible Study Questions: Ecclesiastes: Meaning Part 1 (Ecc 1:2; 1:12-2:11; 2:17-25)

Sept 28'25 Sermon by John Fortune

From Brendan: "These questions are a guide. You do not have to use every question. Knowing your group, go over these questions and ask God what questions you should focus on. May God bless and guide your discussions!"

- Welcome everyone and open with prayer.

Optional Icebreaker Question:

- **FOLLOW-UP from last week (Envy + Charity):** How did practicing gratitude go? Did anyone pray a prayer of blessing over someone they were tempted to envy?
- What gives your life meaning? Put another way, what helps you get out of bed in the morning?

Read Ecclesiastes 1:2; 1:12-2:11; 2:17-25

1. What stands out to you in Qohelet's (the teacher) honesty?

- Why do you think the Bible includes such blunt language about futility and frustration?
- How does his realism challenge our usual ways of talking about faith and success?

2. Which of the Teacher's "experiments" resonates most with you—wisdom, pleasure, or legacy?

- Where are you most tempted to look for meaning or control? What does your own life reveal about what you hope will make you "enough"?

3. Why do you think it's so hard to receive life as a gift rather than something to master?

- How do Kierkegaard's forms of despair (finitude, weakness, defiance) show up in everyday life—at work, in relationships, or in faith?

4. How does Christ change the way we see the same realities—wisdom, pleasure, legacy?

- In what ways does Jesus re-open the “closed universe” that Ecclesiastes describes?
- How does Keller’s line—“If the God of the Bible exists, then everything we do matters forever”—reshape your view of meaning?

Application/Challenge (this week)

5. What would it look like for you this week to live “under heaven” instead of “under the sun”?

- How can you practice gratitude, rest, and joy in small, ordinary moments as signs that your life is received from the hand of God?

Closing Prayer (5 min)

Invite group members to pray for one another—especially for the ability to find satisfaction in the mundane things of life as a gift from God.