

Chasing the Wind - A Study of Ecclesiastes Discussion Guide: Week 2 - Ecclesiastes 1:4-18

Summary of this week's teaching: This week we continued to examine Ecclesiastes 1. In this chapter, the "Preacher" rails against the supposed meaninglessness of God's creation. Solomon's godless approach soured his perspective; rather than seeing order and beauty in the cycles and rhythms of our world, all he could perceive was weariness and vanity. Solomon then turned his sights upon wisdom and knowledge. Solomon refused to allow God into the equation, seeking only wisdom "under heaven." Unsurprisingly, he found even knowledge and wisdom to be unsatisfactory replacements for the Almighty.

Connect: Relational questions to get conversations started.

1. Have you ever read through Ecclesiastes before? What are your overall impressions of the book? Is our series challenging your pre-existing concepts?

Seed: The Bible, God's inspired Word, is very much like a seed- it contains everything we need to experience life. Please read the following passages of scripture as a group: (perhaps in two different translations) Ecclesiastes 1.

1. Why do you think this acerbic book begins with an attack on the order and grandeur of God's creation? (12 bonus points to everyone who knows what acerbic means)
2. Why did Solomon find wisdom and knowledge unsatisfactory? Do you agree or disagree with his conclusions, and why?

Roots: Like subterranean tree roots which extend in all directions searching out water, each believer needs to grow and develop spiritual roots that allow us to make personal connections with our God.

1. In stark contrast to the godless Solomon we see in Ecclesiastes, this man once loved and pursued the Lord. What led to his spiritual and moral downfall?
2. Do you recognize any beliefs, attitudes, or behaviors in your own life that, if not checked, could derail your faith in the Lord?

Trunk: Without trunks, plants may be large, useful, and beautiful but they are not trees. The same is true for our faith - without it we are not saved and cannot please God. These questions will help us grow our faith in Him.

1. Has the book of Ecclesiastes challenged your faith at all? If so, how?
2. In your own faith journey, have you ever struggled with some of the issues we see in Ecclesiastes, such as losing faith, becoming jaded and bitter, and/or seasons of godlessness? What helped you through these difficult times?

Crown: Crowns are the glory of a tree; the culmination of the roots and trunk working in harmony and can be seen for miles around. The crown of a tree represents the visible portion of our faithlife. These questions will encourage us to apply these principles into our everyday lives.

1. Prayer is powerful. Take some time to pray for one another - if anyone is currently struggling with doubt, disillusionment, or a lack of faith, lift them up to the Lord.

