

Passage Study Guide - Ecclesiastes 1:1-18

Series: Ecclesiastes



Part 1: Getting to the Big Idea

Questions get to the Big Idea of the passage

1. The idea of “vanity” is repeated throughout the book of Ecclesiastes. How does the poem from v2-11 help us understand the meaning of this word?
2. What are some repeated phrases in this passage? Identify them and explore what they might mean in their context.
3. What kind of figure is the “Preacher” in the passage? What does he set out to do in v12-18?
4. What do the two proverbs in v15 and v18 tell us about the conclusion and result of the Preacher/Qohelet’s quest?

Part 2: Takeaways & Applications

Applying the passage to our lives to grow in Christlikeness

Fallen Condition Questions

Considering our idols and temptations; how we are both sinners and sufferers

1. The Preacher concludes that life is absurd and futile. How have you experienced this reality of “vanity” in your life?
2. The Preacher realises that all his wisdom cannot overcome the futility and absurdity of our fleeting life. How have we pursued such wisdom as the solution to life’s problems? What does this dependence on wisdom reveal about our hearts?

Personal Renewal Questions

Considering how we can be renewed and transformed in Christlikeness

3. Read Proverbs 9:10. How does biblical wisdom differ from the wisdom that the Preacher is seeking? How does it shape the way we pursue wisdom?
4. How do the person and work of Christ shape how we view the futility and absurdity of life as presented by the Preacher?

Shaping Church Culture Questions

Considering how the gospel shapes and permeates the culture within our community

5. What are some ways the church community can encourage us when we are discouraged by life’s futility and absurdity?

6. It is easy to get caught up in our pursuit and dependence on wisdom to fix all our problems. What are some ways we can keep each other accountable as we pursue and apply wisdom?