

SERIES OVERVIEW

In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon sets out to discover if “life under the sun” is truly worth living. He goes on a journey throughout the book and finds himself originally declaring that everything under the sun is meaningless (Hebrew. Hebel—literally translated, vapor or breath. Used 38 times in this book). Solomon is overwhelmed with the truth that death is coming for every person, and that nothing worked for, earned, or pursued seems to have any lasting value. It’s not until Solomon starts focusing his attention on things “beyond the sun” that he recognizes life’s true meaning and purpose. He ultimately discovers that the whole purpose of man is to enjoy life and all its blessings, to live by faith, and to prepare for eternity by fearing God and keeping his commandments.

- [Watch Overview](#) (Watch as a group)

CONTEXT

Ecclesiastes 4:4-16 examines the futility of toil driven by envy and the inherent value of companionship. Solomon reflects on the lonely laborer and the benefits of having a partner, concluding that two are better than one for they can help each other in times of need and adversity.

THE BIG IDEA

Success cannot satisfy, especially if you achieve it at the expense of people.

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 4:4-16

4 Then I saw that all toil and all skill in work come from a man's envy of his neighbor. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.
5 The fool folds his hands and eats his own flesh. 6 Better is a handful of quietness than two hands full of toil and a striving after wind. 7 Again, I saw vanity under the sun:
8 one person who has no other, either son or brother, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, “For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?” This also is vanity and an unhappy business. 9 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. 10 For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! 11 Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? 12 And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken. 13 Better was a poor and wise youth than an old and foolish king who no longer knew how to take advice. 14 For he went from prison to the throne, though in his own kingdom he had been born poor. 15 I saw all the living who move about under the sun, along with that youth who was to stand in the king's place. 16 There was no end of all the people, all of whom he led. Yet those who come later will not rejoice in him. Surely this also is vanity and a striving after wind.

ICE BREAKER

Ecclesiastes is full of proverbs like in 4:6. Share a "proverb" or saying that your parents or grandparent said a lot when you were young and what you think it actually meant.

GROUP DISCUSSION

What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon and why do you think God wants you to remember this truth?

Read Ecclesiastes 4:4-16 as a group.

Reflect on Ecclesiastes 4:4-6. How do you see **envy** driving people's actions in today's society, especially in the context of social media? You personally?

According to verses 4-6 and the sermon, what does envy lead to?

All To Him: Greed is described as a desire that is never satisfied. How can practicing generosity with our time, talent and treasure help combat greed in our lives? What keeps you from surrendering your all to the One who gave his all for you?

Isolation is identified as a significant problem. How can you identify and address areas of isolation in your life? Who is one person God is asking you to check on who feels isolated?

Reflect on the statement: "We must be others-focused to overcome individual issues." How can you apply this principle to our struggles with envy, greed, isolation and arrogance in your daily life and interactions?

What does Eccl. 4:4-16 teach us about who God is and what He wants for us?

PRAYER (In gender based groups)

*Share praises, answered prayers, and prayer requests.

INVITE YOUR GROUP!



[INFO AND REGISTER HERE](#)

SPACE AVAILABLE

September 19&20

October 24&25

November 7&8