

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

In Ecclesiastes 5:8-20, the writer reflects on the futility of wealth and honor, noting that love of money leads to dissatisfaction and that material riches can be lost easily. Instead, true joy and contentment come from God, who allows individuals to find enjoyment in their daily labor and the blessings they receive.

THE BIG IDEA

Stop chasing more. Fear God and be content with what he’s given you.

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 5:8-20

8 If you see in a province the oppression of the poor and the violation of justice and righteousness, do not be amazed at the matter, for the high official is watched by a higher, and there are yet higher ones over them. 9 But this is gain for a land in every way: a king committed to cultivated fields. 10 He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. 11 When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes? 12 Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep. 13 There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, 14 and those riches were lost in a bad venture. And he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand. 15 As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand. 16 This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go, and what gain is there to him who toils for the wind? 17 Moreover, all his days he eats in darkness in much vexation and sickness and anger. 18 Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. 19 Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God. 20 For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

ICE BREAKER

What is something you saved up money for or asked for as a kid that you really wanted but when you got it you were really disappointed?

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 5:8-9. These verses speak to corrupt officials who take advantage of the powerless and how people are amazed by their power and wealth. What should our response and actions to this oppression NOT be and what should they be?

Read verses 10-12. As a group create a summary of these verses. How have you seen these verses play out in your own life?

Read 1 Timothy 6:10. How does it speak to verses 10-12 and how do both scriptures clarify that money itself is not evil? What did Pastor James mean when he said, "When you make a good thing a god thing, that's a bad thing"? (notice the *little g* god)

Pastor James spoke about 2 truths that come from this text; 1. Money Can't Satisfy and 2. More Money, More Problems. Have a conversation about these truths and share a time when you experienced the validity of these statements. What makes it so hard to truly believe and live by these truths?

Read verses 13-17. Solomon is describing the tragedies that he has seen in relation to the "lie of more". Discuss the 3 tragedies Pastor James spoke about from these verses.

Discussion Continued. Read verses 18-20.

These verses give us the solution to the tragedies. Discuss the 4 solutions and share which one you struggle with the most. How does our knowledge and faith in Jesus help us move past doubt and into trusting God in these solutions? (See the "Take Notes" feature on the app for the solutions)

What does Ecclesiastes 5:8-20 teach us about God and who He is?

PRAYER (In gender based groups)

*Share praises, answered prayers, and prayer requests.

Scholarships Available!



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SPACE AVAILABLE

September 19&20

October 24&25

November 7&8