

# GENESIS STUDY QUESTIONS

## ECCLESIASTES

July 26, 2009

*Leaders Note: This is a study that demands discussion. Ecclesiastes speaks to the heart of the human experience, the pursuit of life's purpose. Wrestle with the text as the author questions the meaning of life. This study will leave you with more questions than answers. Your role as a leader is to continue to ask these questions to get your group members to think and be challenged by one another. The author himself had a lot of unknowns, and in the end, it was ok for him. It is also ok for us to do the same. The end goal is not how we become fulfilled, but knowing it is God who can fulfill us.*

### Getting Started

If you could ask God one question about your life, what would it be?

### Digging Deeper

Read Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 to yourself.

Re-read Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 aloud. As you read, consider this question:

What is the author's outlook on the purpose of life?

*(Answers will vary. Allow yourself to sit with this passage and feel what the author is trying to express.) Life is routine, he finds that life is without purpose, what we see is never enough, what we do (as humans) is pointless...*

After reading this passage, what assumptions could you make about the author's past (i.e. his work, possessions, experiences)?

*He found no meaning in life. He was depressed. He must have had little, or tried to be successful but failed. Something horrible must have happened to him.*

For a deeper understanding of how the author lived, read Ecclesiastes 2:4-10.

Does this change your assumptions about the author's life?

*Yes, the author had everything but was still unsatisfied.*

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What assumptions have you made about your own life? Striving for \_\_\_\_\_ in hopes that you will finally be satisfied? (Example: college degree, marriage, job promotion, bigger house, friends, etc.)

Will you ever be satisfied?

*This question may create tension or awkward silence, but let it.*

Turn to Ecclesiastes 3:11-14 and 8:16-17. Put these verses in your own words, and share it with the group.

How do we continue living our lives to the fullest knowing we will never have all the answers?

How does this information compare to what you previously believed?

### Application

The author concludes with Ecclesiastes 12:13-14. How does your life reflect the pursuit to "fear God and keep his commandments" (12:13-14)?

Pray that God would reveal to you the things in your own life that keep you from fearing Him and keeping His commandments.