

The Common Thread

ECCLESIASTES: The Enigma and Enjoyment of a Vaporous Life

Community Group Questions

1. What were your general impressions and takeaways from the ECCLESIASTES video shown in this message?
2. Are you more inclined to bury your head in the sand and deny the dark, temporary nature of life, or are you more inclined to stay in the quicksand of despair to try to somehow feel you are in control? What are the downsides to both approaches?
3. Discuss this quote from the sermon: “God invites us to confront the illusion of our control and thus fully feel as out of control as we actually are.”
4. What do you think most people feel are their main goals in life? (happiness, security, fun, etc.) Discuss how this relates to this excerpt from the Westminster Shorter Catechism: “Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him for ever.”
5. In light of uncertainty and injustice, how does being willing to actually acknowledge the “hevel” around us help us to also have empathy and engage in the pain and plight of others without being crushed by the anxiety and weight of it all?
6. Is there anything you need to share with the group about your own struggle with the seeming meaninglessness of life?
7. Spend time with your group going through the various lines from the Serenity Prayer: *God, give me grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things which should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other. Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardship as a pathway to peace, taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it, trusting that You will make all things right, If I surrender to Your will, so that I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen.*