

**Life that's >You: Week 2**

**Mar. 29, 2020**

**Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:26**

## **Warming Up**

1. Share with your group some of the most enjoyable or rewarding experiences you've ever had either from work or leisure.

## **Knowing the Gospel...**

2. What are the 3 main areas of life the Preacher explores in chapter 2 (v. 2:1-11, 2:12-17, 2:18-26)? What conclusion does he come to about each one? What reasons does he give for his conclusions?

3. Read the parable of the rich fool in Luke 12:13-21. How does the man in the parable (and the man who asked Jesus for a favor in v.13) resemble the searching of the Preacher in Ecclesiastes 2? What is the main point that Jesus was trying to get across to his audience by telling the parable? How might this give us insight into Ecclesiastes 2?

4. Despite the tone of futility in this chapter, the Preacher does find something good in each one: pleasure, wisdom, and work. So why does he identify each one as vanity and striving after the wind (2:25, 12:13-14)?

## **Living the Gospel...**

5. Check out 1 Cor. 15:54-58. Paul tells us in v. 58 that "in the Lord" our labor is not in vain. Assuming Paul does not contradict Ecclesiastes, how do these verses help us

understand the Preacher's perspective on work (and life in general) in Ecclesiastes 2?

6. Read Ecc. 12:13-14. These verses are key in helping us understanding the entire message of Ecclesiastes. How do these verses help us understand the musings of the Preacher in chapter 2? (see also 2:24-26). What things in life (possessions, experiences, circumstances, people) tend to draw your attention away from eternal realities to the temporal?

7. Read 2:24-26: How does the author begin to give us insight into his solution to the disillusionment he outlines in the rest of the chapter?

React to this statement from the church father, Augustine:

*"Thou hast made us for thyself and our heart is restless until it rests in thee"*

*-Augustine -*

What tends to "steal" your rest in God and make your heart restless?

In what areas of life might you be looking for this world to give you more than it can possibly give you?

## **Telling the Gospel...**

9. Discuss with your group 1 way you can show love to your neighbors during this "unusual" season of life in our world. Commit to doing 1 thing this week to show love and concern for those in your life that don't know Christ.

**Next Week: Ecclesiastes 3:1-22**