

**MEANING?: Introduction
Ecclesiastes 1:1-18**

We are in a new series in the book of Ecclesiastes.

Are you familiar with the book of Ecclesiastes?

Have you previously studied the book? If so, what are your impressions of it?

The book of Ecclesiastes tries to answer core questions about life, purpose, the reality of God and, if he is real, why He sometimes does what He does?

What kind of questions are people asking today when it comes to life, meaning, God?

What are hard questions to answer? What is the hardest question someone has asked you about God or meaning or spiritual things?

Has there ever been a question about deep things or spirituality that you have not yet been able to answer? If so, is that frustrating?

Why do you think there are sometimes more questions than answers?

The series title is “Meaning?” which also is the big theme of the book. The book specifically explores how we can find meaning in life?

Do you struggle with finding meaning in life and situations? If so, why? If not, why not?

Do certain circumstances in life tend to raise questions related to the meaning of life?

As discussed in the sermon, Solomon had a chapter in his life when he turned away from God and tried to find meaning in all sorts of other things. He then returned to God and, in Ecclesiastes, writes about his experience while he was searching for meaning. He shares his story and states whether those things fulfilled him or left him empty.

Do you think Solomon’s conclusions are more credible, since he (unsuccessfully) tried to find meaning apart from God?

Do you think his story should be listened to or can it simply be discounted?