

## **Bible Summary**

Ecclesiastes 2:1-10

Pleasure

Ecclesiastes is the first-hand account of the world's wisest fool king Solomon. He decides to explore a naturalistic life to see if there is meaning apart from God. In chapter One he applies his heart to know wisdom apart from God and discovers that kind of wisdom is as frustrating as trying to catch the wind. Next, he moves to see if pleasure can bring meaning but instead he discovers another dead end that leaves him depressed and suicidal. He leads us to the reason why in chapter 3:11 - the human heart has too great of a capacity for meaning alone to ever satisfy.

Scriptures: Ecclesiastes 1:12-16, 2:1-10, 15,17,18, 20, 7:28, 3:11; Genesis 2:7; Romans 6; Psalm 16:11; 1 Timothy 6:17; Psalm 27:4

## **Bible Questions & Application**

(These are meant to aid in facilitating conversation.

There is no obligation to run through **every** listed question.)

1. How did Sunday's teaching challenge your thinking?
2. In Eccl. 2, Solomon explores pleasures to provide meaning in life. These include altered state (escapism), achievements and acquisitions (material possessions). Which of these things do you enjoy the most?
3. Pleasure, in and of itself, is not bad. However it cannot be the primary source of meaning in life. Why not?
4. In Eccl. 3:11, Solomon points out that God has put eternity in the human heart, so nothing in this world, apart from God can fulfill us. What do you think it means when scripture says, "He has put eternity in our hearts."
5. Pleasure is a great servant but a terrible master. How do you manage pleasure without letting pleasure manage you?
6. What is it about our current culture that makes our generation ten times more likely to be depressed than previous generations?
7. How can you discern whether you see God as the end goal or a means to an end?
8. Psalm 16:11 tells us there is fullness of joy in God's presence.
  - a. In your daily life do you feel this fullness of joy?
  - b. Perhaps the key to Psalm 16:11 is found in verse 8 where David says he has set the Lord always before him. What does this mean and how can we always set the Lord before us?