

*Plastic  
Trophies*



*The lies we believe*  
**DISCUSSION  
GUIDE**

# **4-WEEK STUDY**

ON THE LIES WE BELIEVE

## **WEEK 1**

Discussion Guide

Ecclesiastes 1:12-14, 1:16-18, 2:4-11, 2:16-21  
5:10-17, 12:11-13

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## *The lies we believe* DISCUSSION GUIDE

### WEEKLY READING

**Primary text from this week:** Ecclesiastes 1:12-14, 1:16-18, 2:4-11, 2:16-21, 5:10-17, 12:11-13

### GETTING STARTED

**Goals this week:** To identify and replace the lie that “you are what you have”

**Missed the sermon?** Watch it at [www.youtube.com/venturamissionary](http://www.youtube.com/venturamissionary)

**Break the Ice:** List the “job” titles you’ve had in your life, such as student, son, brother, husband, sales manager, etc. Which did you enjoy the most and which did you enjoy the least?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from Sunday's sermon that you'd like to discuss?
2. Solomon begins the book of Ecclesiastes with the frame that he wanted to find meaning apart from God. Talk about a time in your life where you did the same.
3. Solomon writes this letter at the end of his life. Why do you think some people get to the end of their life and feel gratitude and others feel disappointment?
4. On Sunday Pastor Brian mentioned a number of ways people try to identify or hide behind gifts of God rather than God, such as: intellect, wealth, accomplishment, even obligations like parenting. How can we confuse gifts and obligations with true identity?
5. Money is one of the most challenging struggles to navigate in the Christian life. Those with wealth aren't the only ones who struggle with greed. What is your current and historical relationship to wealth and God's provision in your life? Do you think about money a lot? Do you think about losing it, getting more, or how to spend it? Discuss ways in which your thoughts about money could influence your thoughts about God's provision.
6. Pastor Brian offered this sentence at the end of his message: “For the writer of Ecclesiastes, meaning and happiness is a way of being that finds all resource in God.” In this season of your life, what resource(s) (health, wisdom, peace of mind, forgiveness, purpose, etc.) do you need from God and how might you try to satisfy that need apart from God?

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### PRAYER

**Pray for each other:** Pray for each other and any needs, especially related to the lie that we are what we have.

**Pray for yourself:** Pray “God, I come before you asking only that I would learn to be content with life and provision as You have ordained it for me. Help me to be content in every season of life. I know that apart from You I can do nothing, but with You, there's nothing I can't do. I ask that You give me just enough resources that I don't look outside of You for my needs.”

**Pray for your four:** Identify four people who don't know Jesus (friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers/classmates), and commit to pray for them consistently. Pray that **(1)** God would reveal Jesus to them, **(2)** that God would turn their hearts towards Him, **(3)** that God would put Christians in their path to represent Christ, and **(4)** that God would give you an opportunity to share what Christ has done in your life.

### ACTION STEPS

Make a list of the things you tell people about yourself when you meet them for the first time: “I am a doctor” or “I am a stay-at-home mom.” Ask yourself if these are things in which you use to find ultimate meaning. Identify some other statements this week that that would better reflect your true identity in God.

### NOTES

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