

**Key Scripture**

*The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. 2 Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. 3 What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun? 4 A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever. 5 The sun rises, and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it rises. 6 The wind blows to the south and goes around to the north; around and around goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns. 7 All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they flow again. 8 All things are full of weariness; a man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing. 9 What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. 10 Is there a thing of which it is said, "See, this is new"? It has been already in the ages before us. 11 There is no remembrance of former things nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to be among those who come after. 12 I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. 13 And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. 14 I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind] 15 What is crooked cannot be made straight, and what is lacking cannot be counted. 16 I said in my heart, "I have acquired great wisdom, surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me, and my heart has had great experience of wisdom and knowledge." 17 And I applied my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind. 18 For in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow. – Ecclesiastes 1:1-18 (ESV)*

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**Start Talking: Find a conversation starter for your group. (15 Min)**

- What are some achievements that you are proud of? It can come from work, or school, personal hobby, or something from when you were younger.
- What is something you wish you were better at?

**Head: Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking. (10 Min)**

- Read Ecclesiastes 1:1-11. What do you think the writer means by stating that everything is vanity? Do you think that is true?
- Read Ecclesiastes 1:12-18. How can wisdom be meaningless according to Solomon? How have you seen this to be true?
- What sorrow can wisdom or achievement bring in verse 18?

**Heart: Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness. (10 Min)**

- Do you ever feel like your hard work is sometimes pointless? Is what you're working towards worth it to you now, and in the life to come?
- Have you ever achieved something but then wasn't able to enjoy the benefits from it? Or, it wasn't as satisfying as you thought it would be? Explain.
- What is most important to you? How does God fit into that?

**Hands: Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week. (10 Min)**

- This week plan some time away from work to figure out what is most important for you and or your family from an eternal perspective.
- Write in your prayer Journal and reflect on what God has given to you and the meaning behind it.

**Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power. (15 Min)**

- For suggestions on structuring prayer time, see the *Group Prayer Ideas* page in this packet.

**Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three. (15 Min)**

1. What's a passage of scripture that has impacted you this week? Read it to the group and explain why.
2. Is there anything God is leading you to repent of?
3. How's your weekly 3-2-1 challenge going? (*3 Conversations with New People, Learn 2 Names, Make 1 Meaningful Connection*)
4. Who is one non-believer that you need to reach out to this week?
5. What's something you'd like someone else to check in with you about this week?
6. Pray for one another.