



COVER TO COVER

Take It Deeper //

“3 Ways to Get Wisdom”

Opening Ice Breaker:

Have you ever kept a diary or journal? Share briefly about your experience or why you haven't.

Key Takeaways:

1. Life is meaningless without your maker (God).
2. We need to view life from an eternal perspective, not just "under the sun."
3. There are seasons for everything in life.
4. Relationships and community are essential for a meaningful life.
5. Fearing God and obeying His commands brings meaning to life.

Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Dana mentioned that Ecclesiastes can feel negative at first. Have you ever read Ecclesiastes? What was your initial impression?
2. Solomon tried many things to find fulfillment (wealth, women, success). What are some ways people today try to fill the void in their lives without God?

3. Pastor Dana highlighted that there are "times and seasons" in life. Share about a season you've been through or are currently in. How has your faith helped you navigate it?
4. Discuss the concept of the "threefold cord" mentioned in Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. How have you experienced the strength of community in your own life?
5. Pastor Dana said, "Your up look is always going to change your outlook on life." How can we maintain an eternal perspective in our daily lives?
6. What area of your life currently feels meaningless? How might viewing it "under the Son" (S-O-N) rather than just "under the sun" (S-U-N) change your perspective?

Practical Applications:

1. Read through the book of Ecclesiastes this week (remember, it's only 31 minutes on audio!). Note any verses that stand out to you.
2. Identify one relationship or community connection you can strengthen this week. Make a plan to reach out or spend time with that person/group.
3. Write down one area of your life that feels meaningless. Spend time in prayer, asking God to help you see it from His perspective.
4. Practice gratitude daily this week, focusing on the eternal significance of moments rather than just their temporal nature.

Here's a devotional guide based on this week's message in our Cover-to-Cover series:

Day 1: Finding Meaning in God's Presence

Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:1-11, 12:13-14

Devotional: Solomon's words in Ecclesiastes can seem disheartening at first glance. "Meaningless, meaningless, everything is meaningless." But as we read to the end, we discover the key to finding true meaning - fearing God and keeping His commandments. Today, reflect on areas of your life that feel meaningless. How might viewing them through the lens of eternity and God's presence change your perspective? Remember, your "up look" determines your outlook. Pray for God to reveal His purpose in every aspect of your life, even the seemingly mundane.

Day 2: Seasons of Life

Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, Galatians 6:9-10

Devotional: Life is full of changing seasons - times of joy and sorrow, planting and harvesting, embracing and refraining. Just as nature's seasons change, so do the seasons of our lives. Today, consider what season you're currently in. Are you in a time of growth, pruning, or waiting? Remember that God is present in every season, working for your good. How can you make the most of this current season? Pray for wisdom to discern God's timing and patience to trust His plan, even when you can't see the full picture.

Day 3: The Value of Community

Reading: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Hebrews 10:24-25

Devotional: Solomon wisely observes that two are better than one, and a cord of three strands is not easily broken. God designed us for community - with Him and with others. In a world that often promotes individualism, how can you intentionally foster meaningful relationships? Consider the "threefold cord" in your life - how are you connecting with God and others? Today, reach out to a friend or family member to encourage them. Pray for opportunities to deepen your relationships and to be a source of support for others.

Day 4: Eternity in Our Hearts

Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:11, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Devotional: God has set eternity in the human heart. This innate longing for something more explains why earthly pursuits alone can never fully satisfy us. Only a relationship with our Creator can fill that void. Today, reflect on times when you've felt a deep longing for something more. How has God met you in those moments? Consider how you can nurture your eternal perspective amidst daily life. Pray for a greater awareness of God's eternal purposes and for faith to trust Him with your unfulfilled longings.

Day 5: Fearing God in Youth and Old Age

Reading: Ecclesiastes 11:9-10, 12:1-7

Devotional: Solomon encourages us to remember our Creator in our youth, before the difficulties of old age set in. Yet his message isn't just for the young - it's a call to honor God in every stage of life. Whether you're in the springtime of youth or the winter of old age, how can you cultivate a deeper reverence for God today? Reflect on the ways God has been faithful throughout your life. Pray for the courage to follow Him wholeheartedly, regardless of your age or circumstances. Remember, it's never too early or too late to pursue a meaningful life centered on God.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for giving our lives meaning through relationship with Him. Ask for His help in maintaining an eternal perspective and living in a way that honors Him in all seasons of life.