



Everything Is Meaningless

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WARM-UP

Getting Started

- 1 In the movie **Groundhog Day**, Phil Connors wakes up to the exact same day over and over. If you had to relive one ordinary day of your life on repeat, how many times do you think you could do it before going crazy?

↳ Which parts of your normal routine already feel a little like Groundhog Day?

- 2 This series is called **“Living Life Backward.”** What do you think it looks like to live your life with the end in mind?

↳ If you knew how your story ends, how might it change the way you spend your time, money, and energy today?

↳ Who is someone you’ve seen live this way? What stood out about them?

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PART 1

Life Under the Sun

Read Ecclesiastes 1:1–11 together.

- 3 The word translated **“meaningless”** (hevel) literally means vapor or breath. How does that picture change the way you hear **“everything is meaningless”**?

- 4 In verses 4–7 the Teacher describes the sun, the wind, and the streams going in endless circles. Where does your life feel like that kind of repeating cycle?

- 5 Verse 8 says **“the eye never has enough of seeing, nor the ear its fill of hearing.”** Where do you see that restless **“never enough”** in our culture, or in yourself?

- 6 Verse 11 says **no one remembers the people who came before.** How does it feel to think that most of what we do will be forgotten?

↳ Is that discouraging, freeing, or both?

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PART 2

The Conclusion of the Matter

Read Ecclesiastes 12:8–14 together.

- 7 After searching for meaning everywhere, the Teacher concludes: **“Fear God and keep his commandments”** (v. 13). Why do you think he lands there?

- 8 What does it mean to **“fear God”** in a healthy way? How is it different from just being afraid of Him?

- 9 Verse 14 says **God will bring every deed into judgment, even hidden things.** How does knowing that give our everyday lives meaning instead of making them meaningless?

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CHALLENGE

Living Life Backward

- 10 If you started from the end of your life and worked backward, what would you want to have mattered most?

↳ What would need to change in how you spend your time this week?

- 11 What is one **“vapor”** thing you have been chasing that you need to hold more loosely?

↳ How can this group pray for you as you do that?

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This week’s challenge: start with the end in mind. Fear God, keep His commands, and let that shape how you spend your days.