

Sermon Guide



“Chasing the Wind”

February 11, 2024

Ecclesiastes 1

Note for Leaders: Ecclesiastes wades into deep waters. Let your group know ahead of time that they do not need to share anything they do not want to share. Also encourage them to only share what feels appropriate to the level of trust the group has for one another. A good rule of thumb is this: if you are less than a year into group, only share things that are a 5-7 on a 10-point scale of vulnerability. If you are beyond a year into group, you can consider sharing things that are more vulnerable (as long as they are appropriate for mixed company). Leaders, you can also consider doing guy/girl splits throughout this study.

- 1. Greg talked about the paradox of Ecclesiastes. One verse states a truth. The next verse says, “all is meaningless.” In many ways, Ecclesiastes speaks to the heart of the human experience– that we desire wisdom and clear answers, and yet we often struggle with futility.** Have you ever experienced a season in which your pursuit of truth seemed meaningless? Share about it.
- 2. Greg shared that Ecclesiastes happened after the prophets. Israel has been the captive of the Persians for years. Greg then said this: “Ecclesiastes is a book ruminating on the fate of Israel.”** Are there confusing or disorienting parts of your story that you consistently ruminate on? The word “ruminate” means “return to thinking about.” Why?
- 3. Greg said that in the middle of every person is a desperate cry for people to understand us. Yet, we are never fully understood. Maybe you experience depression or anxiety. Life feels like a vicious, pointless cycle.** What came up for you as you heard Greg describe that part of the human experience?
- 4. Greg said that we all experience a sense of being cursed. He then said that, because of the fall, we *are cursed*. In response to those feelings, we often pursue sin to remove those feelings. Sin then deepens our experience of being cursed, and we continue to wrestle with the cycle.** Do you resonate with that? In what ways?

Prayer Prompt: Where are you struggling with the meaninglessness of life? Share, and then pray for the person to your right, that God would meet them in those places of futility.