

SESSION 1

[Chasing More.]

We spend our whole life **chasing more** . . . more power,
more money, more sex, more happiness, more of everything.
But Solomon reminds us with his life-long experiment that
MORE will never be enough!

But his answer to *chasing more* might surprise you.
Instead of *avoiding* the things we chase, Solomon
teaches us to **ENJOY them as GIFTS from God.**

God is the creator and giver of everything good, and it brings
him great pleasure when we enjoy his gifts and say **Thank You.**

CHASING MORE.

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Ecclesiastes 1

² “Everything is meaningless,”

says the Teacher, “completely meaningless!”

⁸ “Everything is wearisome beyond description.

No matter how much we see, *we are never satisfied.*

No matter how much we hear, *we are never content.”*

Problem.

*We chase more - but more is **never enough.***

More is NEVER enough.

Ecclesiastes 2

¹ I said to myself, “Come on, let’s try pleasure.

Let’s look for the ‘**Good Things**’ in life.”

But I found that this too was meaningless.

- **Even GOOD things can become GOD things.**

⁸ I had everything a man could desire! ⁹ So I became greater than all who had lived in Jerusalem before me, and my wisdom never failed me. ¹⁰ Anything I wanted, I would take. I denied myself no pleasure.

¹¹ But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless - *like chasing the wind.* There was *nothing* really worthwhile anywhere.

- **NO thing or NO one can ever satisfy you.**

¹⁷ So I have come to hate life because *everything* done here under the sun is so troubling.

Everything is meaningless - like chasing the wind.

Q: What are you chasing?

Answer.

Thank God and enjoy his gifts.

THANK God and ENJOY His Gifts.

Ecclesiastes 2

²⁴ So I decided there is nothing better than *to enjoy* food and drink and *to find satisfaction* in work. Then I realized that ***these pleasures are from the hand of God.*** ²⁵ For who can eat or enjoy anything apart from him? ²⁶ For *God gives* wisdom, knowledge, and joy to those who please him.

Q: Do you worship the GIFT or the GIVER?

- **Thank God for WHAT you have.**

Ecclesiastes 9

⁷ So go ahead. Eat your food with joy, and drink your wine with a happy heart, for *God approves of this!*
⁸ Wear fine clothes, with a splash of cologne!

- **Thank God for WHERE you are.**

Ecclesiastes 5

¹⁹ To enjoy your work and *accept your lot in life* - this is indeed a Gift from God.

- **Thank God for WHO he is.**

Ecclesiastes 5

² *God is in heaven*, and you are on earth.
So let your words be few.

“Grateful makes you HUMBLE and HUSTLE.”

SESSION 2

[Chasing Answers.]

We all have God Questions?

The problem isn't having Questions . . .

it's demanding answers.

We forget that God created everything, and it's all under his control. We forget that God's timing is not our timing. That his ways are not our ways.

We forget that ***God is GOD and we are NOT.***

God is the only one who controls tomorrow.

He's the only one who will set things right.

God is the only one who is ***GOD*** enough and ***GOOD*** enough to be in charge.

God knows how to be God . . .

so let's ***Trust Him and Enjoy Today.***

CHASING ANSWERS.

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Q: What's your one big God Question?

Problem.

*The problem isn't having Questions -
it's **demanding answers.***

Ecclesiastes is a book of Questions.

- **We question God's TIMING.**

Ecclesiastes 3

¹ For everything there is a *season*,
a time for every purpose under heaven.

- **We question God's WAY.**

Ecclesiastes 7

¹³ *Accept the way God does things*, for who can
straighten out what God has made crooked?

- **We question God's SOVEREIGNTY.**

Ecclesiastes 8

¹⁷ No one can discover everything God is doing
under the sun. Not even the wisest people can
discover everything, no matter what they claim.

Ecclesiastes 11

⁵ Just as you cannot understand the path of the wind or
the mystery of a tiny baby growing in it's mothers womb,
so you cannot understand the activity of God,
who does all things.

Q: Do you trust God in ALL Things?

Answer.

Trust God and Enjoy Today.

Trust God and Enjoy Today.

- **Trust God to be GOOD.**

Ecclesiastes 3

¹⁰ I've seen the burden God has placed on us all. ¹¹ Yet

God has made everything beautiful for its own time.

He has planted eternity in the human heart,
but even so, people cannot see the whole scope
of God's work from beginning to end.

- **Trust God to be GOD.**

Ecclesiastes 3

¹² So I concluded that there is nothing better than
to be happy and enjoy ourselves as long as we can.

¹³ And people should eat and drink and enjoy the
fruits of their labor, for these are gifts from God.

¹⁴ I know that ***whatever God does is final.***

Nothing can be added to it or taken from it.

God's purpose is that people should fear him.

¹⁵ What is happening now has happened before, and what
will happen in the future has happened before, because
God makes the same things happen over and over again.

- **Trust God to be JUDGE.**

¹⁷ In due season *God will Judge* everyone,
both good and bad, for all their deeds.

Q: Which one of these do you struggle with?

SESSION 3

[Chasing Happy.]

Everybody wants to be happy.

In fact, our first home was a Garden called “Eden” - which means pleasure. God created man to enjoy life.

Solomon says that *“Those who love money will never have enough”* and he’s invested \$2.1 Trillion dollars in that truth.

The truth is that most of us ***chase money*** above everything else and are devastated when we realize that ***Money is a terrible God***. It will never love you, save you, or satisfy you.

Instead, Solomon teaches us to Worship God by enjoying your friends, your family, and your job. He teaches us to *Worship God* by enjoying your *“Lot in Life.”*

Your ***“Lot in Life”*** is the place where God placed you - your family, your job, your friend group, your social status. God placed you there to worship him in that place.

Solomon teaches you how to use your power, your influence, your gifts, and your skills for Good and God’s glory.

Solomon teaches us that . . .

“Worship is doing the BEST you can do at WHATEVER you do for God’s GLORY.”

CHASING HAPPY.

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Q: What makes you happy?

Ecclesiastes 2

¹⁷ So I have come to hate life . . .

Everything is meaningless - like chasing the wind.

Problem.

*The problem isn't **being happy** -
it's chasing happy in all the **wrong places**.*

MONEY won't make you happy.

Ecclesiastes 5

¹⁰ Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings *true happiness!*

¹⁵ We all come to the end of our lives as naked and empty-handed as on the day we were born.

We can't take our riches with us.

SEX won't make you happy.

1 Kings 11

¹ King Solomon loved (*desired*) many foreign women.

³ He had 700 wives of royal birth and 300 concubines.

In fact . . . ⁴ they turned his heart to worship other gods instead of being completely faithful to the Lord his God.

POWER won't make you happy.

Ecclesiastes 8

⁸ None of us can hold back our spirit from departing.

None of us has the power to prevent the day of our death.

There is no escaping that obligation, that dark battle.

Answer.

*Worship God and enjoy **YOUR** life.*

“ENVY is the thief of HAPPY.”

Enjoy your FRIENDS.

Ecclesiastes 4

⁹ *Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. ¹⁰ If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. ¹² A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better.*

Enjoy your FAMILY.

Ecclesiastes 9

⁹ *Live happily with the woman you love through all the meaningless days of life that God has given you under the sun. The wife God gives you is *your reward* for all your earthly toil.*

Enjoy your WORK.

Ecclesiastes 5

¹⁸ It is good for people to eat, drink, and enjoy their work under the sun during the short life God has given them, and to accept their lot in life. ¹⁹ And it is a good thing to receive wealth from God and the good health to enjoy it.

***To enjoy your work and accept your lot in life -
this is indeed a gift from God.***

Q: Which gift have you stopped enjoying?

Q: What can you do to enjoy it again?

SESSION 4

[Chasing Perfect.]

What happens when your best isn't good enough?

Solomon learned everything, tried everything, and looked everywhere but "*Still didn't find what he was looking for.*"
At the end of his pleasure quest, Solomon was sure of one thing . . . ***Nobody's Perfect.***

His best wasn't good enough.
He *knew better* but didn't *do better*.

Solomon trusted in his own way . . .

his own money, his own power, his own wisdom.
But nothing worked - everything was meaningless.

He had *money* but didn't have *meaning*.
He had *pleasure* but didn't have *peace*.
He had *wisdom* but didn't have *clarity*.
He found everything and he called it "***NOTHING.***"

But at the end of chasing "*His Own Way*" . . .
Solomon found another way to live - God's Way.

In his quest for ***The Perfect Life*** . . .
Solomon was awaiting ***The Perfect Messiah.***

Jesus would be the ONLY WAY to Perfect.

CHASING PERFECT.

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“We spend most of our life chasing Perfect.”

Ecclesiastes 7

²⁰ ***“Not a single person on earth
is always good and never sins.”***

²³ I have always tried my best to let wisdom guide my thoughts and actions. I said to myself, *“I am determined to be wise.”* ***But it didn’t work.***

²⁴ Wisdom is always distant and difficult to find.

²⁵ I searched everywhere, determined to find wisdom and to understand the reason for things.

²⁷ This is my conclusion, says the Teacher.

*I discovered this after looking at
the matter from every possible angle.*

²⁸ *Though I have searched repeatedly,
I still haven’t found what I was looking for.*

***Only one out of a thousand men
is virtuous,*** but not one woman!

²⁹ But I did find this:

***God created people to be virtuous, but they have
each turned to follow their own downward path.***

Problem.

Your BEST isn’t Good ENOUGH.

FITB : “I’ll never be good enough for _____.”

Q : What part of your life do you wish were Perfect?

The Perfect Problem.

- **God is PERFECT.**

Psalm 92

¹⁵ The LORD is upright; there is *no wickedness* in him.

Leviticus 11

⁴⁴ *"I am the LORD your God.*

You must be holy because I am holy."

- **But we're NOT.**

Genesis 3

¹⁰ *"I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid.*

I was afraid because I was naked."

Psalm 14

¹ The LORD looks down from heaven on the entire human race; he looks to see if anyone is truly wise, if anyone seeks God. But **no**. *"All have turned away, all have become corrupt. No one does good, not a single one!"*

Isaiah 53

² *"We turned our backs on him and looked the other way.*

⁶ *We have left God's path to follow our own way."*

***"The problem with our OWN way
is that it's headed the WRONG way."***

Romans 3

²³ *"For everyone has sinned. We all fall short of God's glorious standard. ^{6:23} The wages of sin is death."*

Q: What do we DO now?

***"We usually try to do MORE , do BETTER,
or be the BEST . . . but it's never ENOUGH."***

The Perfect Solution.

- **REPENT of your Sins.**

Mark 1

¹⁵ Jesus said, “The time promised by God has come at last! The Kingdom of God is near! *Repent* of your sins and *believe* the Good News!”

Repent = “turn FROM and turn TO”

Romans 6

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- **RECEIVE the Gift of Jesus.**

Romans 5

⁶ When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. ¹⁷ For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God’s wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for ***all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man - Jesus Christ.***

***“Perfect isn’t something you ACHIEVE
it’s a gift you RECEIVE.”***

John 14

⁶ Jesus said, “I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE. No one can come to the Father except through ME.”

Q: Are you ready to receive the gift of JESUS?

Psalm 18:30 - “God’s way is perfect. All the LORD’s promises prove true . . . ***He makes my way perfect.***”

SESSION 5

[Chasing Nothing.]

CHASING NOTHING.

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Ecclesiastes 1

² *“Everything is meaningless,”*

says the Teacher, *“completely meaningless!”*

¹¹ But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless - *like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere.*

Problem.

We spend our whole life CHASING NOTHING.

***“Nobody means to waste their life . . .
they do it ONE DAY at a time.”***

Ecclesiastes 11

⁹ Young people, it’s wonderful to be young! Enjoy every minute of it. *Do everything you want to do;* take it all in. But remember that you must give an account to God for everything you do.

Q: What’s Your Thing?

Answer.

Do YOUR thing and see what GOD does!

***“Worship is doing the BEST you can do
at WHATEVER you do for God’s GLORY.”***

1. Do YOUR thing.

Romans 12

⁶ God has given each of us
the ability to do certain things well.

2. Do it WELL.

Ecclesiastes 9

¹⁰ Whatever you do, do it well.

3. Do it NOW.

Ecclesiastes 12

¹ Don't let the excitement of youth cause you to forget your Creator. *Honor God in your youth before you grow old* and say, "Life is not pleasant anymore."

² Remember God *before* the light goes dim . . .

³ Remember God *before* your legs tremble . . .

Remember God *before* your shoulders stoop . . .

Remember God *before* your teeth stop grinding . . .

⁴ Remember God *before* the door to life's opportunity is closed and your work starts to fade . . .

⁵ Remember God *before* you start to stumble . . .

Remember God *before* your hair turns white . . .

Remember God *before* you lose your energy . . .

Remember God *before* your sexual desires go away . . .

Remember God before your funeral.

4. See what GOD does.

Ecclesiastes 12

¹³ That's the whole story. Here's my final conclusion:

Fear God and obey his commands, for this is

everyone's duty. ¹⁴ God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad.

Q: What do you need to STOP chasing?

Q: What do you need to START chasing?