

Ecclesiastes 1

Main Idea: Man struggles to find the answers to life's BIG questions apart from God.

Series – Monuments

We are currently in a series of messages entitled "Monuments." Sometimes we need to be reminded of the foundational principles of our faith. If we could drive through the Bible or take one of those guided tours like you might in Washington DC, we would come upon one monument after another to our faith. Look there's Love. God's love for us is everlasting and constant. Last time we examined Hope. Today we have arrived at Purpose. Without God our lives are empty and meaningless.

3 Big Questions

King Solomon used his power and resources for self-discovery. He sought personal fulfillment. His conclusion? "Meaningless! Meaningless!" v.2. What a bleak outlook! Apart from God man struggles to find purpose and meaning.

1. The Q of Existence: Why am I Alive? (see Jeremiah 20:18)

Take God out of the equation you have very few alternatives. Note Ephesians 1:4-5.

- BIG Statement: "I am here to be loved by God."

2. The Q of Significance: Does My Life Matter? (see Isaiah 49:4)

Your life matters so much to God that He made you to last forever. His love-creations are not temporary; they are eternal.

- BIG Statement: "God says that I was made to last forever." (see Psalm 33:11; 139:15-16; 2Corinthians 5:1)

Q: Where are You?

- ✓ Lowest – Survival Mode – existing; barely getting by; controlled by circumstances
- ✓ Middle – Success Mode – most of you; accomplishment; material gain; possessions; freedom
- ✓ Highest – Significance Mode – You know life's meaning; how much you matter to God; You're living out His purposes.

3. The Q of Intent: What is My Purpose?

If you don't know something's purpose, it is likely to be misused or abused. The only way to discover its purpose is to consult the inventor or read the instructions. By looking into the Bible, we are doing both (see Proverbs 9:10; Colossians 1:16; Ephesians 1:11).

- BIG Statement: "I find my purpose by getting to know God, my inventor."

Family Night Big idea – Read Ecclesiastes 1:1-18

- Elementary School – Ask, "What is life like without God (v.2)? Even though all the rivers run into the ocean, why doesn't it fill up? How do you know that God loves you?"
- Middle/ High School – Ask, "How would you describe Solomon's tone in this chapter? What are some things people pursue in order to find fulfillment? How should a relationship with God influence our lives?"

Prayer: "Heavenly Father, thank You for your great love for us. We find our purpose in getting to know You. Amen."

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: Meet this Wednesday, Aug. 13th.

Gravity: We start back next Sunday, August 17th.

Today's Songs

I Thank God.....Maverick City Music

Who You Say I Am.....Hillsong

Mighty to Save.....Hillsong

KidsJAM Bible Trivia Night

Kids are playing Bible Trivia this Wednesday, August 13, from 6-7pm. Sign up in KidsJAM.

Kenya Christmas 2025 Donations

Their needs this year include completing construction on classroom structure, outfitting a lab, training and hiring a full-time pastor, buying several cows, and doing updates and repairs. Go online to give or write "Kenya Christmas" in the remarks line of your check.

PlusONE

If you want to grow your faith, add one thing to your church attendance. We can help you with Family Night, Small Group, or Personal Study. Join Right Now Media for tons of resources to bring the Bible into your everyday life.