### **Ecclesiastes: Community Group Study Guide**

#### Week 1

Welcome to a new semester of community groups and studying scripture together! We are praying and trusting this study will lead to great discussion and reflection...as Ecclesiastes leaves no stone unturned in our heart of hearts.

**Opener:** How would you describe life in ten to fifteen words?

Take a moment to pray as a group and ask God to show you himself more clearly through this study of Ecclesiastes.

What does the Hebrew word "hevel" mean? (translated as meaningless or vanity?)

#### Read together Ecclesiastes chapter 1:

From this text:

What are some activities you engage in that seem monotonous and unending? What things do you or people you know look to as a means of relieving the redundancy of life?

Why did Solomon, who had so much, feel such emptiness in life?

What advice would you have given Solomon for finding meaning in life?

Are you satisfied with your life? If not, what do you think would bring you satisfaction? Do you think the average Christian today feels more or less satisfied than the average Christian thirty years ago? Why?

How would you compare Solomon's attitude toward life with what Jesus taught? Do you think that we have seen a societal shift away from trying to answer deep questions and a move toward just making money and having fun? How has this affected you and those around you?

What impact does it have on us when we realize that all meaning must come from outside of ourselves? How does it change our view of ourselves, and how do we deal with this change?

# Read Ecclesiastes chapter 2:

What is your definition of pleasure? What is the world's definition?

Often, for pleasure to continue to be fulfilling, the intensity of the pleasure must

continually increase. What examples of this do you see in the world today? Solomon's one request to God when he became king was for wisdom. Why didn't his wisdom give him satisfaction later in his life?

What are some signs that money or possessions have become a top priority in someone's life?

What are some blessings from God that give you great enjoyment?

What do you think your attitude should be toward the work you do and the material possessions you have?

Take time to pray for one another.

# RESOURCES - touch link to open resources

Books: Be Satisfied, Warren Weirsbe

A Life Well Life, Tommy Nelson

Exalting Jesus in Ecclesiastes

Videos: Bible Project- Ecclesiastes

**HEVEL** 

## Digging Deeper:

Sermons: Tim Mackie - HEVEL

The Futility of Life without God-Tommy Nelson

The Futility of Life without God Part 2 - Tommy Nelson

<u>Vapor - Pete Briscoe</u>

Contact Pastor Joe at: joesaubert@mac.com for a copy with links of the resources The Electronic copy will give you direct links.