

Family Discussion

The Meaning of Life

Ecclesiastes 1

Why does the author despair?

Ecclesiastes 1:2-11 (NIV) "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless." What does man gain from all his labor at which he toils under the sun? Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever. The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises.

Why does the author despair?

The wind blows to the south and turns to the north; round and round it goes, ever returning on its course. All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full. To the place the streams come from, there they return again. All things are wearisome, more than one can say. The eye never has enough of seeing, nor the ear its fill of hearing.

Why does the author despair?

What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun. Is there anything of which one can say, "Look! This is something new"? It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time.

Why does the author despair?

There is no remembrance of men of old,
and even those who are yet to come will not
be remembered by those who follow.

Discuss together

- Why do you think Solomon was so dissatisfied with life?
- What do you think he meant with the phrase, “just chasing the wind”?
- When have you felt that way?
- He talks about the eye never having “enough of seeing”. How is that true in our society today?

Discuss together

- How does knowing Christ as Savior help to keep us from ...
 - Dissatisfaction with life?
 - “Chasing the wind”?
 - Feeling like you are never satisfied having enough to see or hear?

Pray together

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Your one and only Son, Jesus, to give meaning and purpose to life. Thanks for the hope of life everlasting and the certainty there is more to life than this earthly existence.

We pray this in your holy name.

Amen.

