

ECCLESIASTES

ANCIENT WISDOM FOR REAL LIFE

Life Under the Sun

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

Sunday, June 14, 2020

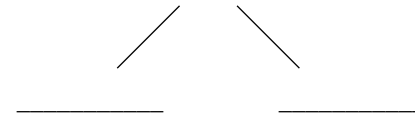
2. Life under the sun is _____.

3. Life under the sun is _____.

4. Life under the sun is _____.

Today we kick off our Summer study of the book of Ecclesiastes. As we'll discover, Ecclesiastes is unique and different and challenging, but oh so timely.

Vanity = _____ = _____



"life under the sun" = life now in this _____, _____ world

4 realities about "life under the sun" and Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 forces us to see:

1. Life under the sun is _____.

NEXT WEEK:

Bursting the Bubble | Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:26

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Growth Group Interaction Guide

Growth Groups are the glue which holds our church together, the way we find and follow Jesus together. If you are not involved in a Growth Group, now is the time to jump in at gracecentralcoast.org.

This year, our aim is to see our Growth Groups embody our 3-fold identity as followers of Jesus: Family, Servant, and Missionary. To that end, we're framing our Growth Group Interaction Guide to help groups move in that direction.

During the COVID-19 crisis our groups are meeting virtually using Zoom and other online platforms.

Connecting Together

How would you describe your "life under the sun" this last week?

Digging into God's Word & the Message Together

1. Read Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 together. How did you come under God's Word in the text and message this week? How did God speak to you? What did you learn or what were you reminded of in this study?
2. How is Ecclesiastes different than Proverbs in the wisdom collection of the Old Testament? What is God saying to us by placing these two different books next to one another? Are you a "Proverbs person?" Or an "Ecclesiastes person?" Why?
3. What is the Hebrew word translated most often as "vanity" in Ecclesiastes 1:2? Why is it so important for our understanding of

Ecclesiastes? What does it really mean? What does that image imply and how was that shown in the message this week?

4. What does "life under the sun" mean? Which of the 4 realities do you most resonate with in Ecclesiastes 1:1-11: the emptiness, the monotony, the exhaustion or the dissatisfaction of life under the sun?
5. Why is Ecclesiastes taking us to these brutal realities of life (empty, monotonous, exhausting, unsatisfying), when most of us are trying to avoid and forget them?
6. **Your Growth Group as a Family:** What does it practically look like to help one another long for and look to Jesus, the PROVIDER of a true and better life? How do we do that?
7. **Your Growth Group as a Servant/Missionary:** Everyone knows these brutal life realities. Think of a not-yet-Christian you know. How would they have heard this Ecclesiastes 1 message? If Ecclesiastes and Jesus are both arousing our soul longing, how can we too do, that with not-yet-Christians?

Praying Together

- Pray for the checking and dissipation of this Covid-19 virus.
- Pray for the the healing of individuals and communities that contacted the Covid-19 virus.
- Pray for the safety of healthcare and others working on the frontlines of the Covid-19 crisis.
- Pray for the financial provision of businesses and individuals who have lost work because of this Covid-19 crisis.
- Pray for wisdom for county, state and national leaders as they make crucial decisions during this Covid-19 crisis.
- Pray your soul longing together and look to Jesus to satisfy.