

## Open It

Pour water in a drinking glass to the halfway mark. Have each group of family member answer the following question. Is the glass half-full or half-empty? Who do you know that has a glass half-full or half-empty view of life? How would you describe them?

## Consider It

What clues to the authorship of Ecclesiastes do we find (1:1)? Who wrote this book?

What remains the same in the created world (1:4-7)?

The author suggests that our eyes and ears are never satisfied with sights or sounds (1:8). Think of an example where you visited a natural or historic site, or attended a concert, but left disappointed?

Is there anything new in life (1:9-10)?

How does the author view human mortality (1:4, 11)?

In what ways do people today live with a sense of disappointment regarding their lives?

Have you ever felt like you were chasing after the wind?  
Have you ever considered anything meaningless in life?

## Live It

Seek the Lord! What would you ask God to show or teach you during this study of Ecclesiastes? Ask and keep on asking.

Serve Others!

What would it look like to come alongside and encourage someone who feels that life is pointless?

Sow Seeds!

What weeds need to be pulled before sowing can take place?  
What is one life-choking activity that you need to minimize or root out of your life?

## The Quest for a Meaningful Life

Is Living Life Pointless?

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

January 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

*The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem:  
2 "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless."  
3 What do people gain from all their labors at which they toil under the sun?  
4 Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever.  
5 The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises.  
6 The wind blows to the south and turns to the north; round and round it goes, ever returning on its course.  
7 All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full. To the place the streams come from, there they return again.  
8 All things are wearisome, more than one can say. The eye never has enough of seeing, nor the ear its fill of hearing.  
9 What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.  
10 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.  
11 No one remembers the former generations, and even those yet to come will not be remembered by those who follow them.*

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 (NIV)

## Sermon Question

Is Living Life Pointless?

**It Appears that Nothing Is Gained ..... 1:3-7**

*What do people gain from all their labors at which they toil under the sun?*

Ecclesiastes 1:3 (NIV)

**It Appears that Nothing Is Remembered ..... 1:11**

*No one remembers the former generations, and even those yet to come will not be remembered by those who follow them.*

Ecclesiastes 1:11 (NIV)

**It Appears that Nothing Is New ..... 1:8-10**

*Is there anything of which one can say, "Look! This is something new"?*

Ecclesiastes 1:10 (NIV)

**Next Steps**