



Group Guide

Confessions of a King

June 16, 2024

Main Passage: Ecclesiastes 1:12-18; 12:9-14

Theological Theme

The only way to find meaning and significance in life is to be in right relationship with the Lord.

Introduction

- ❓ What are some ways you see people searching for meaning outside of Christ?
- ❓ How have you done this at points in your life?

1. Solomon's Search (Ecclesiastes 1:12-18)

The beginning of the book of Ecclesiastes introduces us to the purpose of the book as well as the writer. Referring to himself as the Teacher, Solomon shared all he observed and learned about the meaning of life. Solomon is widely known for the wisdom he received from the Lord. When given the opportunity to ask for anything of God, Solomon requested wisdom (1 Kings 3). If anyone could discover the answer to the meaninglessness of life, it makes sense that it would be the man who had the most wisdom. One paragraph overview of this section.

- ❓ What would you ask for if given the same opportunity as Solomon in 1 Kings 3? What does it say of Solomon that he asked for wisdom above all else?
- ❓ Where do you need to be reminded of your dependence on the Lord? Why is this concept challenging for us?
- ❓ Application: How have you experienced the truth that the more you know, the more sorrow you have?

2. Choose true Wisdom (Ecclesiastes 12:9-12)

Throughout the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon sought pleasure in laughter (2:2), wine (2:3), great projects (2:4-6), possessions (2:7), money (2:8), sex (2:8), and wisdom (2:12-16). None of these things satisfied his soul. He said all these pursuits were “futile and a pursuit of the wind” (2:11). This tells us something very important about the things of the world: they cannot free us from life's frustrations. These things were never meant to satisfy. Our hearts were made to delight in God, the source of ultimate glory. We should view hobbies, entertainment, and work as things that should point us to the Lord.

- ❓ How do our words reveal wisdom or a lack thereof?
- ❓ When have you received wise words that prompted you on the right path or pierced your heart and mind as Solomon described?
- ❓ Application: How can you practice wisdom by being careful of the way you let the wisdom of the world influence you? How do we keep focus on the things of God when faced with conflicting ideas?

3. In Conclusion (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

After recording all he learned from his questions and observations, Solomon finally summed up his conclusions in two strong statements. This last chapter of Ecclesiastes is the culmination of Solomon's speculation and searching over his years as king. Although some people will always get caught up in a quest for meaning or significance, the responsibility of believers remains the same.

- ❓ What stands out to you the most from Solomon's conclusions? How does a right fear of God lead to obedience?
- ❓ How does a long perspective on life and eternity provide motivation for living rightly with God and others?
- ❓ Application: What needs to change about your relationship with Jesus so you are living the most meaningful and satisfying life possible with Him?

Conclusion

- ❓ When have you felt like you were pursuing the wind in seeking meaning in life?
- ❓ How can having an eternal perspective change the way you view the things that regularly discourage or frustrate you in life?
- ❓ How can you seek a gospel conversation with another person by sharing Solomon's teaching from Ecclesiastes?