

LEAD SHEET

ECCLESIASTES - WEEK 2

THE PURSUIT

APRIL 10, 2016

THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL:

SHARE YOUR GRACE STORY

If you want to know God better, tell other people about Him!

GETTING STARTED

General Discussion:

- How can good things that we do become bad things?
(How much they are done/used.)
- What are some good things that people make harmful?
(There are lots--sex, money, self-esteem, freedom, etc.)

DIGGING IN

Read the following passages:

**Ecclesiastes 2:1-3, Ecclesiastes 2:4-6,
Ecclesiastes 2:7-9, Ecclesiastes 2:10-11**

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some things that Solomon lists that he tried in life? (Partying, drinking, building stuff, toys, hobbies, interests, women, etc.)
2. What conclusion did he reach about investing his life in these things (see verse 11)? *(It was all meaningless.)*
3. What is an item on Solomon's list that is the most appealing to you: having fun, having stuff, accomplishing stuff, or the opposite sex? *(Allow for answers.)*

4. How might investing in that stuff prove to be a waste in your own life? *(Allow for discussion.)*

5. Are any of these things in and of themselves bad or wrong? Why or why not? *(No. Allow for discussion.)*

6. What makes them a waste of time? *(By placing too high a value on them, making them the point of your life.)*

We all know people who walk around trying to fulfill themselves without God or with different idols in place of God. If we are honest with ourselves, we may even be someone who tries to do this. Verse 10 says that Solomon took “delight” in pursuing these things. However, he quickly found out that these things were neither fulfilling nor purposeful.

Again, Solomon uses the phrase, “under the sun.” We have to ask the question:

What point is there to life without God?

Read Ecclesiastes 2:17-26

Discussion Questions:

1. What was Solomon’s reaction to investing so heavily in these things, according to verse 17? *(He hated life.)*

2. What do verses 24-25 say about pleasure? *(That it is okay as long as it is from the hand of God.)*

3. Is it wrong to love life, have fun, or to try new things? Why or why not? *(Of course not. Allow for discussion.)*

4. What should our foundation be for life? We talked about it last week. See verse 12:13, if necessary. *(Loving God, obeying His commandments.)*

Christians, above all other people, should be able to enjoy life and appreciate the things that God has given them. Nevertheless, we should not be weighed down by trying to succeed in this world or get to the top. Instead, we should seek God and appreciate the things He has given us.

MAKING IT REAL

God wants us to live our lives seeking Him. He will fill our very deepest needs and desires in ways that other stuff, people, and activities never can. When we desire the world, we will only be satisfied to the extent that the world is able to fulfill us. This leads to emptiness and despair. However, when we trust in God, we are rewarded with true joy and pleasure.

Read the following passages:

Matthew 6:19-21 (store up treasures in Heaven)

Philippians 4:11-13 (be content whatever the circumstance)

Hebrews 13:5-6 (do not love money)

Matthew 6:33 (seek God first)

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Matthew 6:19-21 say about storing up our treasures? (*We should store them up in Heaven, not on earth.*)
2. How is this different from what Solomon tried? (*He accumulated wealth.*)
3. What does Philippians 4:11-13 say about being content with our lives? (*That we should be content no matter what our circumstances are.*)
4. How does chasing after stuff defy this attitude? (*We are always striving for more: money, power, relationships, etc.*)
5. What does Hebrews 13:5-6 say about loving money? (*We should not do it. Instead, we should be content.*)
6. In your own words, describe how the world loves money. (*Going into debt for stuff, etc.*)
7. According to Matthew 6:33, what happens when we seek God first? (*Other things fall into place.*)

God is not in Heaven setting rules for us to follow so that we have no fun or enjoyment in this lifetime. There is nothing wrong with money, sex, relationships, or accomplishment. However, we can have too much of a good thing. When we put our trust in these things, when we try to pile up these things, we lose sight of what is really important.

CLOSING PRAYER

Pray for your students to seek God first and trust Him to take care of the rest.

#CRAZYFORCHRIST