



WEEK 1 DISCUSSION GUIDE
ECCLESIASTES 5:8-6:2
(SUNDAY AM SERIES PART 5: "WHAT WILL SATISFY?")

(1) Catch-Up Question

- What is your high and low of the school year so far?

(2) Choose a student to pray for the small group discussion.

(3) Review

- **What is Ecclesiastes about?** *Whatever stage of life you are in, everyone wants a fulfilled life without regrets. The question is: how do we get there? Meet Solomon, son of David, king of Israel, and the preacher of Ecclesiastes. He pursued every pleasure, fulfilled every passion, and took advantage of every opportunity to find meaning in life and to deal with the hard questions we all face. This is what he found.*

(4) Bible Study: Ecclesiastes 5:10-6:2

- *Choose a student to read the verses out loud or have them all read the passage quietly to themselves. (Choose which questions work best for your group.)*
- **The 6 Bible Study Questions:**
 - (1) What does this passage teach us about God?
 - (2) What does this passage teach us about people?
 - (3) Is there something in this passage that points us to Jesus?
 - (4) How does this passage apply to the Christian life in general and your life specifically?
 - (5) Who is someone I can share this with?
 - (6) What are other passages that correlate to this one?
- **Specific Questions:**
 - Review question: For those who have been to Sunday mornings this fall, what are some things that Solomon has taught us so far?
 - *The main two themes: In Ecclesiastes 1-2, lasting joy and meaning come from the hand of God (not from anything under the sun); in Ecclesiastes 3, God has a good and wise plan even when we do not understand what He is doing (He wants to teach us to trust Him)*

- In Ecclesiastes 5:10-17 and 6:1-2, Solomon teaches us some things about worldly wealth. Which one of these principles or examples stand out to you the most? How do you relate to them personally or see them in high school today?
 - (1) Worldly wealth, status, possessions, etc. are never enough and never satisfying (5:10)
 - (2) Wealth can bring more stress and worry into one's life (5:11-12)
 - (3) Riches and possessions are not secure because they can be lost, and they do not go with you when you die (5:13-16)
 - (4) Wealth is not always a bad thing as it can be used wisely! However, if you're not careful, it can ruin your life (5:17)
 - (5) Many people have success, riches, and possessions, but they are unable to even enjoy them (6:1-2)
- What does it mean to be “discontent”? Describe what it looks like in high school. What do you think are some causes of our discontentment?
- When are you tempted to say: “If I only had ____, then I’d be satisfied/filled”?
 - Another way to ask this: Sometimes we profess that Jesus is our greatest treasure, but we have our hearts clinging to something else for satisfaction. This can lead to living a “double-life.” Where are you tempted to look for satisfaction other than Jesus?
- Are wealth and possessions always necessarily a bad thing? How does what Solomon says put these things in their proper place and give us a perspective to enjoy God’s gifts without idolizing them? What is the difference between *enjoying* God’s good gifts from His hand and *idolizing* them?
- In Ecclesiastes 5:18-20, Solomon describes a different and better way to live: the way of joy and contentment in a relationship with a loving God. What stands out to you about these verses?
- What does “contentment” mean and how do we get it? What are some practical ways that we could grow to be content in all circumstances?
- In high school, what would it look like to be occupied with joy in the present rather than preoccupied with the past or future? Why might we be preoccupied with the past or the future?
- What do these passages teach us about contentment? Hebrews 13:5; 1 Timothy 6:6-10; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Psalm 34:8-10; Philippians 4:11-13
- How does focusing on what Jesus did for us in the gospel help grow contentment and satisfaction in our hearts?
- **The gospel in Ecclesiastes:** Check out 2 Corinthians 8:9. Jesus had everything we search for (and Solomon searched for), and He left it all to die on a cross. Why? So that sinners like us can have *real* wealth, honor, love, and meaning in a relationship with God. We are *forgiven* so that we may have *fellowship* with the one true God, and this is the greatest and most secure treasure of all. This is how much He loves us. We don’t have to search for it anymore. Without Him, we’ll keep searching for it in worldly things and come up short.
- **Memory Verse/Main Verses:** Ecclesiastes 5:18-20

(5) Prayer requests and/or choose a student to close in prayer.