



Nothing Seems to Change  
Ecclesiastes 1:12–18  
October 6, 2024

### Tips and Tricks:

The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through and others will be over in a few seconds.

1. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was just preached. Just ask the questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Don't forget to laugh and crack up. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our ministry. Remember: We have to build a relational bridge strong enough to hold the truth!

### Agenda for Group Time

1. Ice Breaker - Lighthearted ice breaker question (10 minutes)
2. Discussion - Bible study, sharing and application. (25 Minutes)
3. Prayer - Pray together (5 minutes)
4. Planning - Remember to talk about what's coming up.

### Icebreaker

Question: How would you describe your ability to fix things around the house?

- I call the guy that fixes things.
- Fixing things is fun and easy.
- I draw the line at electrical.
- The last time I tried to fix something around the house, we had to get new flooring.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

If you could fix one thing in the world today, what would it be?

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### Read Ecclesiastes 1:12–18

#### The Problems with Human Wisdom

This section has some good poetic symmetry. After verse 12, there are two reflections about the vanity of pursuing wisdom. Both of these reflections are followed by a proverb that supports the reflection.

Where has the preacher searched for wisdom? Why is this important?

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Verse 13 says *"It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with."*

Does this truth make you uncomfortable?

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We tend to think that God gives only good gifts. Yet here, God gives "unhappy business." Where else in the bible can you find God giving "unhappy business" to people?

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How would you describe this truth to your family member or friend that is far from God?

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What does each proverb teach (verse 15 and verse 18)?

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Which of these two truths make you the most uncomfortable?

1. Wisdom can't change the world.
2. The more wisdom you get, the more sorrow you experience.

Question: In what area of life have you tried to "straighten out what is crooked"?

- My family
- My work
- My church
- My baseball team
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Can you think of a time when wisdom brought you sorrow?

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## **The Hope of Wisdom from God**

### **Read 1 Corinthians 1:18–25**

Question: How is the wisdom of God described in this passage?

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Question: What does Paul mean when he says that the foolish and lowly things will shame the wise and strong? Have you seen this in your own life?

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How does wisdom from God restore our hope?

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## **Work It Out!**

One thing I'll do differently because of this sermon:

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