



Session 2

BIG IDEA

Ecclesiastes teaches that one of the keys to finding meaning in life is to find joy in the simple beauties of life.

GROUP OPENER

What are some of the simple things in life that bring you joy?

GROUP DISCUSSION

- Read this longer passage Ecclesiastes 2:24-3:15. Twice out loud, in different versions of the Bible – everyone listens.
- What are some significant observations you have about this text? What stood out? What didn't you like? What was confusing?
- What does this passage teach us about God? How does it change how I see God?
- What does this passage teach us about humanity/ourselves? How would it change how I treat others?
- What does this passage teach us about obedience? How should it affect the way I live?

January 26
WEEKEND

As a Group

Questions:

What are some reasons that Christians may not be known for joy?

What did the teacher encourage the students to take joy in?

Read: Genesis 1:1 and Revelation 4:11.

The Bible opens by telling us that we were created **by** God and closes reminding us that we were created **for** God. The central part of the story of scripture is God intervening because we try to live for ourselves. The teacher in Ecclesiastes reminds us that so much of what we chase is vapor.

There's always a risk that we take the good gifts of God—like pleasure—and elevate them to ultimate importance. For example, the enjoyment of food can easily turn into gluttony. As followers of Jesus, we must be careful not to reject God's good gifts, but also avoid making them the ultimate focus of our lives.

Questions:

Have you ever known Christians who are afraid of the little pleasures?

How can God's good gifts be taken too far?

How can you take some of the good moments and attach them in your mind to God's goodness today?

How can holding onto the anchor of God's goodness hold us during difficult times?

What wisdom stands out to you today from the teacher?

ACTION STEPS

I will statement...

- Based on what God is teaching in this passage, what should I do? Reflect for a minute or two and develop an action statement. Put it in the form, "I Will _____". Make it concrete, simple, and achievable.
- Share your "I Will" statement with the group.