



INTRODUCTION

Death destroys meaning and purpose. It robs wisdom of its value and makes our work a vain toil. But if we draw close the Lord and live to please him, then we will find He gives us the ability to enjoy that which was once a vexation.

INSTRUCTIONS

This guide is meant to facilitate discussion which will lead to a response to God's word. Therefore, please use it as tool that best fits the needs of your community group.

OPENING DISCUSSION

- Read **Ecclesiastes 2:12-26**
- What do you find interesting/compelling/confusing about this passage?
- Have you ever concluded with Qoheleth, "I hated life?" What is missing when we hate life.

REVIEW

- Why is wisdom better than folly?
- How does death impact the value of wisdom?
- Qoheleth concludes work cannot provide lasting meaning to life. What reasons does he give for this conclusion?
- What does it mean to please God (v26)?

APPLICATION

- What are the world's solutions regarding dissatisfaction with accomplishments?
- What are God's solutions for a disheartening life?
- Is work a toil for you? Discuss.
- How can you find joy in your toil?
- How can you "please God" in your labor? How is that different from simply obeying God?

PRAYER (divide the group based on gender if desired)

- What action/repentance does God want you to take according to the truths of this text?
- Are there any other prayer needs