



## Small Group Discussion Questions

You might think you're already an expert on wrecking your life, but over the course of five weeks, we're going to help you take it to the next level! We'll be examining five excellent ways to totally ruin your life!

For some, this series will serve as a precautionary tale, but for most of us, it will be about how we can travel the road to recovery. Throughout this series, we'll draw on the journal of the wisest man ever to live: King Solomon

### "Let Pleasure Guide You"

Ben Davis

**Ecclesiastes 12:13** "Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind."

"Apart from God---life is \_\_\_\_\_. It's like chasing the \_\_\_\_\_. It's a vapor. It's a fog. It's \_\_\_\_\_."

An easy way to wreck your life; let \_\_\_\_\_ guide you.

**Ecclesiastes 2:1** "I said to myself, "Come on, let's try \_\_\_\_\_. Let's look for the 'good things' in life." But I found that this, too, was \_\_\_\_\_."

### Ecclesiastes 2:9-11

#### Danger signs:

- You often use the phrase "\_\_\_\_\_".
- When \_\_\_\_\_ happens then I will have a life.

**What are you \_\_\_\_\_ that could bring you happiness while you \_\_\_\_\_ something that never will?**

### Read Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Beginning at the end allows for understanding the purpose of Solomon writing this book

- What do you think about Solomon's conclusion?
- What are ways we walk with God?
- What is life like when we choose to follow our own wisdom?

### Read Ecclesiastes 1:1-2

The word for meaningless can also mean "breath" or "vapor".

- What is meant by the motto "everything is meaningless"?
- Name something you pursued for pleasure in the past but no longer do; this could be a hobby, goal, pastime. Why did you originally pursue it? What did you learn after giving up this pursuit?

### Read Proverbs 3:5-6

- How does one know God is trustworthy? Does such faith involve a "blind leap"?
- Why is it hard to not "lean on our own understanding"?

### Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

- What inconsistency does the teacher find in pleasure seeking? (vv 1-3)
- What do these key phrases tell you about the perspective of this passage:
  - During the few days of their lives
  - Under the sun
  - In days to come (v16)

- What great projects does he undertake? What desires were such projects meant to satisfy?
- During these projects, what is his relation to wisdom (vv 3, 9, 12-13)

Can happiness be found in things and possessions? Is there a way in which things and possession, pursuing pleasure can become a god? If so, how do we come to that awareness in our lives?

Ben quoted Henry Cloud "When we are pursuing things that don't have the power to make us happy, we are ignoring the ones that do."

- What are some of the things we pursue that lead to dead ends
- How does this quote apply to you?

*Walk with God and be grateful, chase after God and your pursuit will be over.*

What steps will you take this week to seek and pursue God?