

Small Group Discussion

Living With Uncertainty (Part 1)

Ecclesiastes

Getting Started

- Has there been a time in your life, that upon reflection, you have realized that you had simply been “striving after wind?”

Static Questions

- **What was the passage about?**
 - Note the key details (Who, What, When, Where, Why, etc.)
 - Pay attention to the main *points* of the passage.
- **What did you learn?**
 - What did the passage reveal about God? About people?
 - Was there a promise or command or a warning?
 - What is the big idea of the passage?
 - What lessons do you see?
- **How will you apply it?**
 - How does this passage relate to your life right now?
 - What change in your thinking or behavior is needed to align with the truths in this message?
 - How should you respond based on what you learned?

From the Teaching this Morning

- The word translated “vanity” (Eccl 1:2) by the NASB appears as “futility” in NET, “meaningless” in NIV and NLT. The Amplified Bible adds “a wisp of smoke, a vapor that vanishes, merely chasing wind.” Dr. Martin emphasized the meaning “vaporous.” Other definitions of the word conveying the idea of vanity include “transient” and “profitless.” Which idea best conveys the meaning of Solomon’s words? Does the use of these different renderings of this word change, add to, or take away from the meaning of the text?
- How does the statement “we all think we are the centers of the universe” play out in our present culture? How does this differ from a biblical perspective of the individual’s place in His creation?
- Dr. Martin claims that life is cyclical. Do you agree? Why or why not?
- If we are not supposed to live in the future or past, how are we to live in the present? Can benefit be made from looking to the past or future? How can one keep proper perspective?

