

**Wisdom Talks**  
**Ecclesiastes: Life Isn't Easy**  
Wyatt Martin // February 12, 2023  
Ecclesiastes

**Big Idea: Wisdom requires accepting the reality of life.**

**Wisdom: The skill of applying knowledge to build a flourishing life by aligning yourself with God's character and purposes.**

**Proverbs: Wisdom will bring you a flourishing life.**

**Ecclesiastes: Wisdom requires accepting the reality of life.**

**Ecclesiastes 1:1-2**

**Hevel: Futility? Meaningless? Vanity?**

**Hevel = vapor**

**Wisdom requires you to accept that life is hevel.**

- 1. The insignificance of your life is hevel.**  
**Ecclesiastes 1:3-10**
- 2. The equalization of death is hevel.**  
**Ecclesiastes 3:19-22**
- 3. The absurdity of chance is hevel.**  
**Ecclesiastes 9:11-12**  
**Ecclesiastes 10:5-7**  
**Ecclesiastes 8:14**

**Why does recognizing the hevel of this life bring wisdom?**

**Recognizing hevel helps you embrace the current moment.**

**Ecclesiastes 11:8**

**Recognizing hevel helps you build your life on what is solid.**

**Ecclesiastes 12:12-14**

## Message questions

We continue our journey through *God's Story* in our fourth series called, *Wisdom Talks* which will cover Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job, and Song of Songs. Knowledge doesn't do us much good if we don't know how to use it. That's where wisdom comes in. As we take a look at some of the wisdom books in the Old Testament, we'll discover how God created the world to work and how he invites us to live according to that intent so we can flourish. This week, we are in Ecclesiastes, and our Big Idea is *Wisdom requires accepting the reality of life*. Our passages this week are **Ecclesiastes 1:1-11, 3:19-22, 9:11-12, 10:5-7, 11:8, and 12:12-14**.

Use these questions to discuss the message from Sunday, focusing on how you can **grow** as an everyday follower of Jesus and how you can **go** accomplish what Jesus calls you to do.

1. Share a time in your life when you thought you knew more than your teachers (or parents). How has your mind changed as a result of these moments?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Have someone read **Ecclesiastes 1:1-2**. What does futility (Hebrew word is *hevel*—הֶבֶל) mean, and how do you see it show up in your life?

3. Read **Ecclesiastes 12:8-14**. What do you notice about the teacher's conclusion (**vs. 8**), the author's metaphors (**vs. 10-11**), and the author's conclusion (**vs. 13-14**)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Share a time when you thought you were right where God wanted you, and it all fell apart. Where did you see God in your disillusionment, pain, or questions, and how did it cause you to **grow**?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Ecclesiastes teaches us that wisdom requires accepting the realities of life. How does a better understanding of this help you **go** do what Jesus is calling you to do?