

# CHASING THE WIND

## ECCLESIASTES



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SERMON GUIDE

### CHASING PIETY

Ecclesiastes 2:12-17, 7:1-22, 9:11-16 | Pastor Tim Porter

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Faith Community Church | fchudson.com

The Conversation Guide is a great tool for individuals, families, discipleship groups and Missional Communities to take a deeper, more personal dive into the content of the current sermon series. The Conversation Guide will be posted every Friday in the News & Blog section of our website. We encourage you to use it this week on your own, around your dinner tables, over coffee with your friends or in your Bible studies!

**\*QUESTIONS FOR KIDS!** Questions most suitable for children are marked with an asterisk.

### Conversation Questions

1. What do you think people mean when they use this phrase: "My life just isn't working!"? Have you ever felt that way? Please share an example.
2. Read Ecclesiastes 2:12-17 and 9:11-16. What verse or phrase stands out to you most? Why?
  - a. For a great introduction to the book of Ecclesiastes you might take a moment to watch this video from the Bible Project: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VeUiuSK81-0>
  - b. Or, you can go to YouTube and type "Bible Project Ecclesiastes" in the search bar. It will be the second video they suggest.
3. Wisdom is the art of living life well. Wisdom is about making life "work." But sometimes, no matter how much you strive to do the right thing, life just doesn't "work." "...the same thing happens to [the wise person and the fool]" (v.14)
  - a. In 3:15-17 and 9:11-15 the Teacher reflects on a bunch of things that happen to both wise and foolish people without regard for how hard they've tried to do the right things. What are some of these things that happen to everyone?
  - b. Are there other things that happen to both wise and foolish people without regard for how hard they've tried to do the right thing that are particularly troubling to you?
4. The Teacher is challenging a very dangerous assumption that many Christians make: If I am good and serve God, life should "work." Life should go well for me.
  - a. Why is this assumption so dangerous?
  - b. How does Jesus' example refute this assumption and offer us hope at the same time?
5. Job is someone who always tried to do the right thing, and suffered a great deal. In Job 28, he is reflecting on the question, "Where is wisdom to be found?" Take a moment to read Job 28 together.
  - a. What is Job's conclusion? Where is wisdom found?

A life that "works" is one that is humble before the Lord and displays the beauty of trust in God's ultimate goodness. Take a moment to praise God for his goodness and to confess any ways that you have tried to make life "work" by any other means.