

# CHASING THE WIND

## ECCLESIASTES



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SERMON GUIDE

### CHASING THE WIND

Ecclesiastes 11:1-12:8 | Pastor Tim Prince

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Faith Community Church | fcchudson.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. Share about a time that you took a risk and it really paid off. What kinds of things did you learn from that experience?
2. Read Ecclesiastes 11:1-12:8. 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.
  - c. A note to the reader: The "bread" that the Teacher talks about in 11:1 is a metaphor for your life. Chapter 12 is also full of metaphors: the "grinders" are your teeth, the "windows" are your eyes, the "silver chord," "golden bowl" and "cistern" are your life, etc...
3. "Cast your bread upon the waters..." the Teacher says. Then in verses 1-7, he uses wonderful poetic language to encourage us to just live. Live your life!
  - a. Rewrite 11:1-7 in your own words. What do you think the Teacher is trying to say?
4. One response to the meaninglessness and vanity of life would be despair and depression. Yet that is not where the Teacher ends his reflections! Instead he encourages us to enjoy life as much as we can, especially when we're young. And he encourages us: "Remember your Creator..." (12:1)
  - a. If the Teacher were with you right now, what advice do you think he would give you about your life? Be as specific as possible.
5. Are you living in the fear of God, or in fear of other things? Is fear holding you back from anything?
  - a. Are there any specific risks that you feel God is inviting you to take for the sake of your joy and the expansion of his kingdom?
6. This is how Ecclesiastes ends: "13 The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.[c] 14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, with[d] every secret thing, whether good or evil."
  - a. Take time together to give thanks for God's goodness and his invitation to a full life.
  - b. If there is anything that is holding you back from walking in the fear of the Lord, confess that to the group and to God in prayer.
  - c. If there's anything that you think God may be asking you to do, share that with the group and ask God for help to 'cast your bread upon the waters.'