



# a reality check on wisdom

Ecclesiastes 1.12-18

*This discussion guide includes preparation BEFORE the group and some guidance DURING the group meeting. Preparation before the group will help you, your leader, and your group to engage and respond to the living and active Word of God.*

## **PREPARATION BEFORE THE GROUP MEETS:**

*The aim of this preparation is to encourage good & prayerful observation of the text of God's word and the joyful experience of discovering its truth.*

### **Pray & read Ecclesiastes 1.12-18; 2.12-16**

What strikes you about this reading?

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Do you have any questions about this reading?

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How does this reading make you feel?

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What do you think in response to this reading?

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What will you do in response to this reading?

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## **WHEN THE GROUP MEETS: Pray for your discussion time**

### **1. wisdom is a chasing after the wind - read Ecclesiastes 1.12-18**

- what does more wisdom and knowledge bring?

#### **read Ecclesiastes 2.12-26**

- what happens to the wise and fool alike? (vv12-16)
  
- who might the wise leave their profits to? (vv17-23)
  
- what is the best the wise can hope for and do? (vv24-26; 7.11-18)

#### **read Ecclesiastes 8.16-17**

- Under the sun, what is the reality of our capacity to know wisdom?
  
- *Then I applied myself to the understanding of wisdom, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is a chasing after the wind.* Discuss whether or not you think this is a sound reality check about wisdom/knowledge:

### **2. the full riches of complete understanding, all the treasures of knowledge & wisdom**

#### **read Colossians 2.1-8; 3.16-17**

- The good news of Jesus is that we have what Solomon lacked. Discuss, and delight in, how the Gospel undoes each point of frustration in the case presented by Solomon (e.g. does the wisdom and knowledge of the Gospel bring more suffering and grief?):
  
- Do you really believe that you have the full riches of complete understanding and all the treasures of knowledge and wisdom in Christ? How is (or should) this belief manifest itself in your life?

**PRAY!**