WISE UP

Community Group Discussion Guide Sunday, July 24

"Remember Your Creator" Ecclesiastes 1 & 12

Introduction

What's our purpose in life? What are we all here for, really? Does life have meaning? In the book of Ecclesiastes, we find the author, "the Teacher," posing these deeper questions than he gives answers. If this life is all that there is...he says, then life is meaningless. Yet, as he concludes his writings, he gives glimpses of a purpose in life: Remember Your Creator.

- 1. Have you ever stopped to really think about the purpose of life? What are we here for, really?
- 2. Read Ecclesiastes 1 and summarize in a sentence or two why the Teacher feels like everything in life is meaningless.
- 3. Why do you think so many people tend not to think about the question of the purpose of life?
- 4. What are some of the common purposes (or philosophies) that people give as to why we're here? In other words, what do others say we should live for?
- 5. In the final chapter of the book, the Teacher finally references "you Creator." Why does having a Creator assume a purpose for our lives?
- 6. What would you say is the primary application of Ecclesiastes 12:1-7?
- 7. What are some ways we can more frequently "remember our Creator"? If you have kids, what are some ways you can help your kids do this?
- 8. Read Ecclesiastes 12:13-14. What are your thoughts on these two verses? Do you like this summary of the duty/purpose of humanity? Why or why not?
- 9. What does the rest of the Bible say about the nature of God our Creator? How does God want us to relate to him?
- 10. When it comes to keeping the commands of God, what does Jesus say is the greatest and second greatest commandments (see Matthew 22:34-40)? How are you doing with these?
- 11. In general, is your worship of God and your obedience toward Him done out of duty or out of delight? What would help move you to DELIGHT in Him?
- 12. In light of everything above, how would you state "the purpose of mankind" in your own words?

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This week's readings: (July 25 - July 31) Monday - Proverbs 30-31

Tuesday - Ecclesiastes 1-4

Wednesday - Ecclesiastes 5-8

Thursday - Ecclesiastes 9-12

Friday - Song of Songs 1-4

Saturday - Song of Songs 5-8

Sunday - Job 1-4