



Pleasure
Message 2

J.C. Thompson
January 2, 2022

► **Outline**

But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless—like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere. **Ecclesiastes 2:11 (NLT)**

A. Life's disappointing pursuits include...

1. _____.
(Ecclesiastes 1:12-18. C/R: Proverbs 3:5-6)

2. _____.
(Ecclesiastes 2:1-17. C/R: 1 Kings 2:22-23)

3. _____.
(Ecclesiastes 2:18-23. C/R: 1 Kings 7:1-12; 9:15-23)

B. But God gives...

1. _____.
(Ecclesiastes 2:24-26. C/R: 1 Corinthians 10:31)

Answers: A. 1. Practicalities 2. Pleasure 3. Productivity B. 1. Joy

Resource Information: Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. C/R refers to a 'cross reference.' Today's outline and discussion guide are available through the Brookwood Church app.



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► Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself or with friends to pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus. To connect with others, visit brookwoodchurch.org/adults.

Conversation Starter

What's an emotion you often feel but rarely express? Why?

Begin your study with prayer

Pause for a few minutes to quiet your heart and mind. Then ask God for insight and direction as you study and reflect on this week's lesson.

Bible Study and Group Discussion

Read [Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:26](#).

1. What does it mean that *God has dealt a tragic existence to the human race* ([vs. 1:12-13](#))? How is that related to the writer's search for understanding?
2. Why did the writer's search for wisdom and knowledge only lead to increased grief and sorrow ([vs. 1:16-18](#))?
3. *Under the sun* is used 19 times in Ecclesiastes. What does that phrase mean?
4. Make a list of ways the Teacher sought pleasure.
5. Which of these seem most prominent in our culture today?
6. When are you prone to give in to the empty pleasures of this world?
7. Think of a time you looked for satisfaction or pleasure apart from God. What void were you trying to fill?
8. Why did the writer come to hate all his hard work ([vs. 2:18-23](#))?

9. Describe a time you put a lot of energy and effort into something, but someone else received the credit? How did you feel? How did you respond?
10. Describe the contrast between seeking pleasure ([vs. 2:10-11](#)) and finding enjoyment ([vs. 2:24-26](#)).
11. What questions does this passage raise for you? What steps can you take to seek insight and understanding?
12. What would help you turn your desire for pleasure in meaningless things into a wholehearted pursuit of God?

Spiritual Practice

A spiritual practice is training for the soul. If you build these into your everyday life, you're sure to strengthen your relationship with God.

Name one thing you look to for satisfaction or pleasure apart from God. Refrain from reaching for that this week. Instead, fill that time with prayer and Bible reading. Use this time of fasting to draw you closer to God.

Memory Verse

So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

[1 Corinthians 10:31 \(NLT\)](#)

Daily Reading

Day 1: [Proverbs 23:4-5](#)

Day 4: [Proverbs 21:16-17](#)

Day 2: [Luke 12:32-34](#)

Day 5: [Genesis 1:29-31](#)

Day 3: [1 Timothy 6:17-19](#)

Prepare for Next Sunday

Next Sunday, January 9, we'll continue the series *What's the Point?* To prepare read [Ecclesiastes 3:1-6:12](#).



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