

Conversations with Solomon at The Salt Creek Café Series

Message # 1: What Is The Point Of Life?

Core Group Discussion Guide

January 6, 2019

Message Overview:

Cafés are a natural place to engage in conversations about God. Many of us don't just swing by for a quick caffeine fix and then dash out. We like to sit down, relax, and read a book or engage in conversation with a friend over a cup of coffee with espresso brownies or cranberry-orange muffins.

In café chats ... you ultimately get down to the issues of truth and reality ... the fundamentals of any philosophy of life. Let's imagine walking into the Salt Creek Cafe and getting our coffee and sitting down and striking up a conversation with a stranger there who happens to be Solomon. **What direction do you think that conversation would take? What would we talk about? I believe we have that conversation recorded for us in the Book of Ecclesiastes.**

Text: Ecclesiastes 1:1-18; 7:24

Questions for Discussion:

• OPEN IT –

1. What was your greatest ambition when you were 10-12 years old?
2. What clothing was in style when you were thirteen?
Would you be “caught dead” in them today? (Things do change with time!)

• EXPLORE IT –

1. The word for “meaningless” (v. 1) can also mean “breath” or “vapor.”
What, then, is meant by the motto – “everything is meaningless”?
2. How does mankind's labor compare with the earth's cycle (vv. 3-7)?
3. What is the theme of verses 9-10? What qualifies as “something new” by Solomon's definition?

• GET IT –

1. What are some activities you engage in that seem monotonous and unending?
2. What things do you or people you know look to as a means of relieving the redundancy of life?
3. Why do we always think true happiness will be found in something we lack right now?
4. What is Solomon's purpose in exposing the meaninglessness of life under the sun?

• APPLY IT –

1. Where “under heaven” have you searched for meaning?
Where have you found it?
2. How does Christ bring significance and meaning to all of our actions, including the ones that seem mundane?
3. **READ:** 1 Timothy 6:6-10. Trying to find meaning in life without God is futile.