



**Time**  
Message 1

J.C. Thompson  
December 26, 2021

## ► Outline

*What do people get for all their hard work under the sun?*

**Ecclesiastes 1:3 (NLT)**

### A. Introduction

**(Ecclesiastes 1:1-3. C/R: Genesis 3:17-19)**

### B. Time's passing reveals our...

1. \_\_\_\_\_.  
**(Ecclesiastes 1:4,11. C/R: Psalm 103:15-16)**

2. **Lack of \_\_\_\_\_.**  
**(Ecclesiastes 1:5-6,9-10. C/R: Colossians 3:1-3)**

3. \_\_\_\_\_ **appetites.**  
**(Ecclesiastes 1:7-8. C/R: Ecclesiastes 12:13-14;  
2 Corinthians 5:1-11)**

**Answers:** 1. Impermanence 2. Improvement 3. Infinite

**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](http://brookwoodchurch.org/adults).

### Conversation Starter

What are a couple of things you remember about your grandparents?

### 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 1:1-11](#).

1. What do you learn about the author of Ecclesiastes in [vs. 1](#)?
2. What insights do you have as you begin reading Ecclesiastes, based on what you know about him?
3. Read [vs. 2](#) out loud. What's your initial reaction to this declaration?
4. Have you ever felt like this? If so, explain.
5. Does your daily work seem meaningless or does it have purpose and significance ([vs. 3](#))? Explain.
6. How do the examples of nature ([vs. 4-7](#)) support the thesis that *everything is meaningless*?
7. Describe a time you expected to find meaning, fulfillment or satisfaction in an experience, project or relationship but were disappointed ([vs. 8](#)). What happened? Why were you disappointed? What did you learn?
8. Describe the Teacher's view of history. What point is he trying to make in [vs. 9-10](#)?

9. What might the Teacher say to a person who believes educating people will eventually solve humanity's problems?
10. How does human mortality ([vs. 4, 11](#)) bring the Teacher's argument to a climax?
11. How does Jesus' life, death and resurrection reframe the idea that everything is meaningless?
12. What's your biggest takeaway from this week's lesson?

### 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 way you search for meaning and satisfaction apart from God. This week, choose God. Be intentional about deepening your relationship with Him in prayer and in His Word. When will you do that? What's your plan?

### Memory Verse

*Teach us to number our days,  
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.*

[Psalm 90:12 \(NLT\)](#)

### Daily Reading

Day 1: [1 John 2:15-17](#)

Day 4: [1 Timothy 6:6-10](#)

Day 2: [Jeremiah 2:13](#)

Day 5: [Proverbs 27:19-20](#)

Day 3: [Proverbs 14:12](#)

### Prepare for Next Sunday

Next Sunday, January 2, we'll continue the series *What's the Point?* To prepare read [Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:26](#).



580 Brookwood Point Place • Simpsonville SC 29681  
864.688.8200 • [brookwoodchurch.org](http://brookwoodchurch.org)