



# Adult and Teen Life Groups Conferencing Guide

SERMON DATE: 07/15/2018  
DISCUSSION DATE: 07/22/2018  
TEXT: ECCLESIASTES 12:8-14

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Ecclesiastes 12:8 “Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher, “**All is vanity.**”  
Frustratingly Puzzling, says the Teacher of Wisdom, all is **a frustrating puzzlement.**

## I. NAVIGATING LIFE IN A FRUSTRATINGLY PUZZLING WORLD.

A. Navigating Life in this Frustratingly Puzzling World requires humble submission of our hearts to WISE counsel (watchfulness).

Answering the question: “**How do we remember our Creator?**”

B. By Submitting to wise counsel/through spiritual watchfulness we can:

Answering the question: “**Why we are to remember our Creator?**”

1. Enjoy God’s Pleasure.
2. Endure God’s Correction.
3. Embrace God’s Perspective.
4. Be equipped to stand before God’s judgment.

## ASK GOD FOR WISDOM TO APPLY HIS WORD IN OUR DAILY LIVES



We can summarize the purpose of this section as follows: ***The wisest sinner to have ever lived is teaching how to enjoy God's gift of life while embracing our finite/fallen limitations (Ecc. 6:10-11:6).***

1. **Read Ecclesiastes 12:6-8.** What should remembering our Creator cause us to do? What reminder does this text give us and how should that motivate us to make this a priority?
2. Why is life both frustrating and puzzling? How has God reminded of you of this reality this week? What puzzles you most about life?
3. **Read Ecclesiastes 12: 9-10; 1 Peter 5:8; Matthew 26:41; Proverbs 4:23; Psalm 39:1.** How do we remember our Creator? What does it mean to be vigilant? Why must we be watchful while praying? Why must we guard our hearts? How do we guard our hearts? How do we engage in guarding our ways from sin? What can we do to restrain our mouths?
4. **Read Ecclesiastes 12: 9-10; Proverbs 22:17-18.** What kind of words does Solomon give us and what must we do with them? What is the relationship between truth and beauty? Why do we find ourselves believing something that is not true to be beautiful? Illustrate how it happens. What does inclining our heart to hear the Words of the Wise look like in our life – i.e. how do we live this command.
5. **Read Psalm 1:1-2; Psalm 37:23; 1 John 5:3.** What characterizes the life of the man/woman who enjoys God's approval (the blessed man)? What does it look like to delight in God's Word? What promise does God give to all who delight in His ways? How do we know that the love of God dwells in us? Is doing God's command a burden or a delight – what does it look like in your life?
6. **Read Ecclesiastes 12:11-12; Hebrews 12:6,11.** Why does God chastening his children? What is our first response to God's chastening? What does it yield in the life of God's children? How does the Word of God act like a goad in our life? What does the Shepherd imagery of our Creator help us to remember? How should this help us to live in joyful submission to Him?
7. **Read Ecclesiastes 12:13.** What is God's perspective about the gift of life? What does it look like to live in the FEAR of the Lord? How should this impact our interactions with people in the work-place – in our homes – in our church? Define what it means to FEAR the LORD. How do we see this evidence in our daily lives?
8. **Read Ecclesiastes 12:14; Revelation 22:12-13.** What reality do we commonly live in denial of? What do most people think about their own works? Who is going to decide what is good and what is evil? How is Jesus the beginning and end of everyone's life?
9. **Read Ecclesiastes 4:1; 1 Corinthians 15:58.** What do we know will happen to all wrongs when God enters into judgment? What do God's children know about their labors for the Lord? How is that meant to encourage us? What should it compel us to do?