



Reality Bites

Read Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

1. What stands out for you in this passage? What is your initial reaction to these words?
2. The Book of Proverbs provides a fairly black and white orientation toward the world. How does Ecclesiastes begin to challenge that?
3. What gives life meaning? What things seem to take meaning away from life?
4. The 'preacher' or 'teacher' in Ecclesiastes says that all is 'vanity' or 'meaningless'. The Hebrew word for this is 'hevel' which means something like breath, vapour, or smoke. How might this alter your understanding of the passage?
5. In what ways is life like a vapour? Where and when do you notice this?
6. Read verse 8 again. Where do you notice this lack of satisfaction today? How about in your life?
7. Where do people most often look for satisfaction in life? What does the preacher say about these things?
8. What are some ways people seek to avoid the temporary or 'vapour'-like nature of life?
9. How could the temporary nature of life actually contribute to our sense of beauty and meaning?