

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11; 3: 1-8



Getting Started

What makes you bored?

What is it that can make time go fast?

The Texts

1. The way we read the book of Ecclesiastes is heavily influenced by how we understand its slogan.

Try these different words in the verses below and see what fits best.

meaningless, vanity, absurd, transient, hard to understand, hard to master
Ecc 2:11; 3:18-19; 5:7; 9:7-10; 11:7-10.

2. What things go in cycles in Ecc 1:1-11? What is difficult and frustrating about this? What is positive and exciting about this? Is this the way the world is meant to be?

3. Look at the human experiences in Ecc 3:1-8. Have you had any of these in the last week? Are the experiences positive or negative? Is this the way the world is meant to be?

4. How does the poem in chapter 3 make you feel? What do you think we're meant to do in light of Ecc 3:1-8?

The texts as part of Scripture

5. What can we learn about the cycles of creation from Gen 1:3-19 and Gen 8:22?

6. Is there a connection between Ecclesiastes and Romans 8:18-25?

7. What similarities do you see between the poems in Ecclesiastes and 1 Tim 6:6-10; 17-19 and James 4:13-17?

Our lives

8. Respond to these statements:

- we'll have good days and bad days
- it's good to see time as a quality not quantity
- aim to be apt, not always efficient

9. What kind of time are you experiencing at the moment? What might the book of Ecclesiastes be saying to you?