

LIFE Group Guide

Vapor and Purpose

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THE ORCHARD

Read: Ecclesiastes 1-2

Outline:

Every Breath Counts: Vapor and Purpose

Ecclesiastes 12:9

Besides being wise, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs with great care.

Terms to know:

- Hebel - "Vapor" Vanity (meaningless)
- M'l - "Toil" Exertion
- Ta-hat ha se-mes "Under the Sun" the physical world

Vapor of Vapors: (1-11)

- Why work? (3)
- Why have kids? (4)
- Existence is stuck on repeat (5-7)
- Life is exhausting (8)
- Nothing is new (9-10)
- Everyone is forgotten (11)

The Vapor of Knowledge (1:12-18)

- Learning is tragic (12-14)
- The world is broken (15)
- Answers don't satisfy (16-17)
- Life in a frustrating enigma (18)

The Vapor of Indulgence (2:1-11)

- Pleasure and laughter accomplish nothing
- Acquiring possessions and experiences leaves us empty
- The good times end and leave you with nothing and no one

The Vapor of Excellence and Exertion (2:12-23)

- The best die like the rest
- Great efforts bring great stress
- You leave it to someone who doesn't know how to keep it

Giving Vapor Purpose (2:24-26)

- Enjoy life the way God intends it
- Please Him with every vapor and you will be rewarded

- Sin bankrupts your life of joy and purpose

Conclusions:

- Christ is the fullness and purpose of life & eternal reward
- In Christ, every breath can count
- Life without Christ is probably destructive, devoid of purpose, and fades to nothing

Discussion Questions

1. What was something from the passage/message that led you to think, feel, or act biblically?
2. How does this passage connect with our lives today?
3. How does this passage point to or reflect Jesus Christ?
4. How can we please God with every vapor? How do we live life with purpose?
5. When life seems to be unfair, or unsure, how should that effect our lives in Christ?
6. How can we look to Christ to help us honor God with our bodies, and our minds?