



## Chasing Wind: Part 2

### Chasing Pleasure

#### **GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER (Optional):**

- If I had \_\_\_\_\_, then I would be happy. How do you tend to fill in that blank?
- How do people in our culture tend to fill in that blank?

#### **BREAKING THE ICE:**

- What do people in America today think is the key to happiness and satisfaction in life? Why won't these things satisfy?

#### **GO TO THE SOURCE: Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 (ESV)**

#### **CHASING PLEASURE IS A GOD GIVEN DUTY**

Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 and answer the following questions:

1. Is there a right way and a wrong way to enjoy the things of the world like food, relationships, and entertainment? Explain.
2. What sorts of things did Solomon seek happiness in (vv. 1-10)? How does Solomon's list compare with the things people seek today to make them happy?
3. What was the result of Solomon's experiment of trying to find satisfaction in these things? Why do you think Solomon describes these things the way he does in verse 11?
4. Are any of the things that Solomon sought pleasure from evil? Is there a way to pursue these things that would honor the Lord?

## **CHASE PLEASURE IN AND THROUGH GOD**

Read Psalm 16:1-11 and answer the following questions:

5. How might desiring other gods (i.e. pleasures that lead to idolatry) cause our troubles to multiply? How did David experience this principle in his life?
6. How did David respond to the idolatry around him (vv. 4-5)? What can we learn from David about the relationship God wants us to have with the idols around us?
7. Why was David confident that he would "not be upended" (v. 8)? What did trusting in the Lord produce in David's heart (v. 9)?
8. What did David find in the presence of the Lord (V.v. 9-11)?
9. Do you think David understood the "cost" of making a life decision to place God first in his life?

10. Read Philippians 4:4. Why do you think the Bible commands us to rejoice in the Lord?

## **MAKE IT COUNT**

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

11. Why do you think so many of the things we seek in life never truly satisfy us?
12. How can we learn to find contentment in the good things God gives us?
13. How has seeking joy or renewal in places other than God caused you trouble?
14. What keeps you from delighting in the Lord? What steps can you take this week to grow your affection for Christ?

## **PRAYER**

- Close by praying that your group would worship by giving God your very best. Ask Him to reveal areas that need improvement so each of you can glorify and honor God through each area in which you're called to be obedient.
- Pray that you would rejoice in the Lord. Thank God for offering us "absolute joy" and "sheer delight" in His presence. Ask that He would grow our affection for Him.
- Close your time in prayer thanking God for offering us true contentment through the sacrifice of Jesus. Pray for any of the specific situations mentioned by your group, and ask God to use all that He gives us to glorify Him.