

Never Enough Introduction
“I Can’t Get No Satisfaction”
Small Group Notes
January 2nd and 5th

Group Facilitators:

For the remaining sessions, there will be a 10-minute video that will be shown at the beginning of the group time. Contact your ministry leader for any questions regarding how to access the content.

Main Point: Contentment is a struggle for all of us, especially when we focus on temporary things versus eternal things.

Introduction:

Fill in the blank: If I had _____, then I would be happy. What were some things you noticed about everyone’s answers?

What do people in America today think is the key to happiness and satisfaction in life? How are these things wrong? How do they impact the way we live?

For the next few weeks, we are going to discuss about how our world looks at all the things provided by the Lord to fulfill our needs and wants and says they are “Never Enough!” Yet, we are also going to see from today’s Scripture how there is satisfaction that is to be found in the Lord!

Discuss:

1. Read 1 Kings 3:5-15

If you were given the opportunity to ask the Lord for anything, what would you say?

We see in this passage how Solomon asked for wisdom. Why is wisdom greater than gold or treasure? What are some ways that you have seen people build their life around wealth rather than wisdom?

Read verse 14, what was the condition placed upon Solomon? How does our obedience to the Lord impact our lives?

2. Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-9

If you had to sum up Solomon views about the way the world tries to offer you pleasure, what would you say?

Is there a right way and wrong way that we are to enjoy the things of the world like food, relationships, and entertainment? Explain. (Food, relationships, and entertainment are not bad things in themselves, yet when we replace God with these things or we consume them too much, they become stumbling blocks to our spiritual growth).

How are Christians to be different from the world in relationships to these things (food, entertainment, and relationships)?

3. Read Ecclesiastes 2:10-11, 13

How can the things that we call accomplishments of life become “chasing after the wind?”

What was Solomon’s conclusion? What does that look like in your life to “fear the Lord?” Read Proverbs 1:7.

Dig Deeper: (Designed for deeper discussion regarding the text.

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

⁶ Solomon answered, “You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day. ⁷ “Now, Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. ⁸ Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. ⁹ So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?” ¹⁰ The Lord was pleased that

Solomon had asked for this. ¹¹ So God said to him, “Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, ¹² I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. ¹³ Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. ¹⁴ And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life.” ¹⁵ Then Solomon awoke—and he realized it had been a dream. He returned to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the Lord’s covenant and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then he gave a feast for all his court.

- He wanted the things of God more than he wanted the presence of God.
- Everything that is not eternal, is just a breath.
- We can fill ourselves with the wrong things, but it will not get us to where we want to go.

How does Solomon’s request demonstrate for us that there is a right and wrong way to seek wisdom?

Considering his later life, where he struggled with pleasure and satisfaction, how is having more not always the best thing?

What is a situation in your life currently that you are seeking the world’s wisdom to solve instead of letting Scripture speak into your life? How can that change for this year?

Ecclesiastes 2:1-9 (NIV)

I said to myself, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good.” But that also proved to be meaningless. ² “Laughter,” I said, “is madness. And what does pleasure accomplish?”

I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly—my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was good for people to do under the heavens during the few days of their lives.

I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. ⁵ I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. ⁶ I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing

trees. ⁷ I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. ⁸ I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired male and female singers, and a harem^[a] as well—the delights of a man’s heart. ⁹ I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me.

- Arrival is in the eye of the beholder.
- Filling up on lesser things will make us fill temporarily but doesn’t ultimately satisfy.

How does Solomon’s words here remind us of building a resume`? What ways that we allow the world to define success for us instead of the Lord?

What are some movies, biographies, or books that you can think of that reflect Solomon’s words?

Why do we choose the lesser instead of the greater things in our lives? Why is walking with the Lord more of a marathon than a sprint?

Ecclesiastes 2:10-11 (NIV)

I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my labor, and this was the reward for all my toil. ¹¹ Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 (NIV)

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.

- Things of this world are unable to yield the fruit that can only be found in the Lord.
- True, lasting satisfaction can only be found in the person of Jesus.

To paraphrase Jim Collins first statement in his book, *Good to Great*, the greatest enemy to great is good. What *good* things in your life are you tempted to seek contentment in?

How can glorifying the Lord in all things help us to not have a life of meaninglessness?

How does fearing the Lord keep your motives on check regarding how we live for Him?

Do:

What is one way that you can use money, entertainment, work or a relationship to glorify God this week?

Share with someone in the group about an area that you feel you are “chasing after” in your life. Spend this week in prayer for one another so that you will take the right steps of wisdom this week.

Spend some time in reflection about how you are seeking contentment. If you are trying to find satisfaction apart from the Lord, consider removing that area from your life to focus on the Lord. Write down an action strategy of how to overcome the temptation to run back to the thing that doesn't ultimately satisfy.