



# BETTER

## What's the Point?

#npbetter

# Week 1

## 1 of 12

June 7, 2020

**Bottom Line:** Life under the SUN is profitless; life under the SON has meaning.

**Icebreaker:** What is the most meaningless TV show you have ever watched, yet enjoyed it? Who is the wisest, not the smartest, person you have ever known?

**Key Verse:** *"Everything is meaningless," says the Teacher, "completely meaningless!"* Ecclesiastes 1:2 NLT

God created mankind and the world complete and perfect. He created man with a free will to choose because He wanted man to really love Him, and there can be no true love without free choice. Adam and Eve ended up choosing to sin and were unruly and rebellious toward God. As a result of this brokenness the world became unruly and rebellious toward man. God allowed us to become frustrated with our world and life because we must realize that the wages of sin is death. He promised a Savior who would come and restore all that was lost.

In the family line through which the Messiah would one day come, Solomon was born to King David. God granted him his desire to have wisdom and also gave him power, wealth, and long life as a bonus. Solomon started his reign as king following God, but he made compromises along the way and it led to great disaster. At the time of his writing Ecclesiastes, Solomon was filled with angst. He is brutally honest as he reflects on life. "What's the point?", he asks. "Everything is meaningless." Thirty-eight times he says it is meaningless. He says work is useless. We are like a dog chasing its tail. Wearisome beyond description. It's unfulfilling. We are just recycling old events. Life is insignificant and depressing. The busyness means nothing of value. It's like chasing the wind. It's uncontrollable. We cannot fix the world—we can't even fix ourselves. Life is confusing whether rich or poor. The amount of your resources truly makes no lasting difference. Actually, the more I know and have increases responsibility and sorrow. Solomon understood the human condition but couldn't fix it.

Nine hundred years later, Jesus came. He has more than information; He works transformation. He, the One greater than Solomon, the promised One, is here. Now we have the wisdom of God to lead us into satisfaction as we connect with the God who gave us life to enjoy and promised complete restoration and perfection someday.

## THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

If God asked you what one thing you want most, what would it be? Why?

God has allowed hard things to happen to the world and us individually so our frustration and helplessness would drive us to Him for help. How do you see that reflected in our current situation as a nation?

Little compromises lead to long-lived consequences. Give an example. Why is it hard for us to learn from the mistakes of others in this arena?

Solomon lost any idea of why he was here. The catechism teaches that "man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever." Does that knowledge have the capacity to add value to struggles and difficulties? If so, how?

We cannot make things right because we are not right. How does this describe our current circumstances?

## LOOK IT OVER <<<

Solomon said, "The more I learn, the more it increases my sorrow." Have you experienced this? If so, how?

How is Jesus greater than Solomon?

Transformation is greater than information. Reflect and discuss.

As soon as you connect with Christ, you lower your expectations for life. Agree or disagree? Discuss.

The Christian faith is often viewed as another option, an add-on that makes our lives better. This is why much Christian "faith" is so shallow. Reflect and discuss.

How many people do you know who are genuinely happy with their lives? How do you know?

A completely horizontal life has no lasting meaning. What does this mean to you?

## NEXT STEPS

1. On a scale of 1-10, with 1 being absolutely no meaning and 10 meaning perfectly fulfilled, where would you say you are?
2. Identify the reason you believe you are here.
3. Seek transformation, not information.

## EVALUTION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** Life under the SUN is profitless; life under the SON has meaning.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

## PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

## DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at [newpointe.org/daily](http://newpointe.org/daily):

Monday: Matthew 12:42

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 2:1-6

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Thursday: John 6:63

Friday: Luke 12:13-31

***Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.***  
*(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)*