**Passing the Torch Bible Talk**

**Solomon Builds the Temple**

On Sunday we saw that David passed the torch of the Messiah to his son Solomon. Solomon started out well, in part, because of his humility. Because he humbly asked to be able to help God’s people, God gave him what he asked for—wisdom. But God also gave him great “success.”

Opening sharing: What gives your life meaning? Be sure to remember the comments made here so that you can use them later in the Bible discussion.

For fun, to get the group started, have two different people read these two scriptures: James 3:13 and Proverbs 11:2

Q: So which is it? Does wisdom come from humility or does humility come from wisdom? Why would one be true and why would the other be true.

Our study tonight will come from Solomon’s wisdom as found in Ecclesiastes.

Read Ecclesiastes 1:1-2. Is Solomon depressed? What is his problem?

Read Ecclesiates 1:3-11 Q: Why is everything meaningless, according to Solomon? Do you agree with him?

Q: Is it literally true that “nothing is new under the sun?” (v. 9) What does Solomon mean by this?

Read Ecclesiastes 1:12-18. We all know that wisdom is a good thing because the Bible praises wisdom. In fact, Solomon gives great emphasis to wisdom in Proverbs. So…

Q: Why, according to Solomon, is “wisdom” meaningless? What kind of wisdom is Solomon talking about? Do you agree with Solomon?

Q: Why do sorrow and grief come with wisdom and knowledge?

Should we, therefore, avoid gaining knowledge?

Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 Q: What things are meaningless according to Solomon?

Remember the things you shared earlier that give you your life meaning. Has anyone’s answer come up yet? What do you think about that?

For Solomon it was “been there, done that.” Has anyone here been as successful as Solomon? Has anyone here been as rich as Solomon? Has anyone here had as many awesome life experiences as Solomon?

Q: In view of that, what can we learn from Solomon?

Before we read Ecclesiastes 2:12-26 tell them the two questions you are going to be asking:

1. What additional thing makes life meaningless?

2. What are some things Solomon concedes are actually good things, but are still meaningless?

Read the passage and then ask the questions above. What do we learn? Are you depressed yet?

Q: How can something be both “good” and meaningless?

Conclusion:

Read Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

Q: Why does judgment make everything meaningless?

Q: What are some examples of things which are “meaningless” which can actually become meaningful if we “fear God and keep his commandments”?