

## *the whole story – Part 4* The Life Worth Living

# TALK IT OVER

### Key Scriptures

#### Ecc. 1:1

“Vanity of Vanities, says the Preacher, Vanity of Vanities, all is Vanity.”

#### Ecc. 2:10

“And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil.”

#### Ecc. 12:13

“The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.”

### Key Quotes:

“Our Physical Desires are not our True Desire”

“Fear God and keep His commands.”

Leadership Note: The goal of the sermon is an AMEN! The questions in the follow-along (which I included in the GC guide) were made to help the listener get the most out of the sermon and reflect on God’s word. Talk about those questions and dig deep into what it means to actually fear God and keep His commands, for it is our ALL.

**Start Talking.** Find a conversation starter for your group.

- After listening to King Solomon call everything Vanity, what is your most treasured physical possession, do you think its something that takes away your attention from God or does your possession of it Glorify Him?

**Start Thinking.** Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Look at the attached map of King Solomon’s life, what are some key details about his reign that led him so idolatry and sin.
- Discuss what area of your life could lead to the same outcome of Solomon’s life. What strategic changes can you make in your own life to avoid the bumpy road and pursue God with your whole heart?

**Start Sharing.** Choose a question to create openness.

- What time in your life did you resonate with Solomon’s outlook on life? Have you ever felt like everything is meaningless? That question is more rhetorical than anything, because I’m certain we can all relate. What got you through those feelings? If you’re still struggling with those thoughts, have others who have overcome those struggles share and give some advice – there is wisdom in the counsel of many!!

**Start Praying.** Be bold and pray with power.

*Oh Lord, our God, today we give You our hearts. We give You our possessions. We give You our sins. We give You our praise for Your glorious and wonderous grace. We thank you God that we CAN find enjoyment in your creation and the labor of our hands. We thank you God that our labor is not vanity because it’s not where our hope is found. Lord would you now “strengthen my hands” as Nehemiah and give me wisdom like Solomon so that I can, with my whole heart, love You and keep your commands.*

*Pray over Psalm 139:23-24 “Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life” AMEN.*

**Start Doing.** Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Fear God. Keep His commands. Read through Ecclesiastes with the context we have now. Find your hope in Christ through the reading of His word and the pursuit of His joy.

Find out more by checking out the “the whole story – part 4” Series on [www.myrestore.church](http://www.myrestore.church)

**990 BC** Solomon is born in Jerusalem to King David and Bathsheba. – 2 Samuel 12:24

David chooses Solomon over Adonijah as his successor to the throne. – 1 Kings 1:28-31

David tells Solomon that God does not allow him to build a temple, and that Solomon is the one whom God has chosen to be the builder. – 1 Chronicles 22:7-11

**970 BC** David dies, Solomon takes over the throne. – 1 Kings 2-12

David marries the daughter of Egypt's Pharaoh to strengthen the alliance between Israel and Egypt. – 1 Kings 3:1

Solomon learns to love the Lord. – 1 Kings 3:3

God instructs Solomon about the wrong ways and the right way to worship. – Deuteronomy 12:4-5

Solomon asks God for wisdom, and God grants him more than what he asked for. – 1 Kings 3:4-14

Two women claim the same baby, so Solomon orders the child to be cut in half. – 1 Kings 3:16-27

The whole of Israel hears of Solomon's wisdom and learns that God's wisdom is in him. – 1 Kings 3:28

God makes Solomon's land prosper and He gives him great understanding so that he is wiser than all his fellow men. – 1 Kings 4:20-31

All who hear of Solomon's wisdom seek to hear him, because they know he speaks three thousand proverbs, a thousand and five songs, along with his knowledge of plants and animals. – 1 Kings 4:32-34

**966 BC** Solomon begins construction of the temple with the help of King Hiram of Tyre and tens of thousands of workers. – 1 Kings 5:1-18

Solomon instructs his people to obey God's commandments and reminds them that He does not fail even one word of His promises. – 1 Kings 8:54-61

The Queen of Sheba visits Solomon, and is amazed at his wisdom, and praises his God. She gives Solomon large amounts of gold, precious stones, and spices, and he gives her whatever she desires before she turns back home. – 1 Kings 10:1-13 (Hint)

Solomon makes a throne of ivory for himself and coats it with gold, with two lions on each side of the throne's armrests. – 1 Kings 10:18 (Hint)

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With his vast wealth which included gold, silver, horses, chariots, armors, and ivory, Solomon is now the richest king in the world. – 1 Kings 10:14-28

**959 BC** Temple of Solomon is complete. – 1 Kings 6:37-38

**940 BC** Solomon's love for foreign women turns his faith away from God and on to the gods of his women's faiths. The Lord is angered at him and told him that he would divide the kingdom. – 1 Kings 11:1-13

God punishes Solomon and sends him three enemies: Haddad, the Edomite; Rezon, the son of Eliada; and Jeroboam, Solomon's servant. – 1 Kings 11:14-28

The prophet Ahijah meets Jeroboam and tells him about God's plans to let him rule a part of Israel. – 1 Kings 11:29-39

**939 BC** Solomon tries to have Jeroboam killed, but Jeroboam escapes to Egypt. – 1 Kings 11:40

**931 BC** Solomon dies of natural causes at the age of 60. He was laid to rest in the city of David. His son, Rehoboam, succeeds him. – 1 Kings 11:42-43