

LG Questions Winter 23 WK 1 Life without Progress



Big Idea: Without Christ life gets stuck in a rut!

Ecclesiastes 1:3-18

What do people gain from all their labors at which they toil under the sun? 4 Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever. 5 The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises. 6 The wind blows to the south and turns to the north; round and round it goes, ever returning on its course. 7 All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full. To the place the streams come from, there they return again. 8 All things are wearisome, more than one can say. The eye never has enough of seeing, nor the ear its fill of hearing. 9 What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun. 10 Is there anything of which one can say, "Look! This is something new"? It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time. 11 No one remembers the former generations, and even those yet to come will not be remembered by those who follow them. 12 I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. 13 I applied my mind to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under the heavens. What a heavy burden God has laid on mankind! 14 I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind. 15 What is crooked cannot be straightened; what is lacking cannot be counted. 16 I said to myself, "Look, I have increased in wisdom more than anyone who has ruled over Jerusalem before me; I have experienced much of wisdom and knowledge." 17 Then I applied myself to the understanding of wisdom, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is a chasing after the wind. 18 For with much wisdom comes much sorrow; the more knowledge, the more grief.

Isaiah 43:19 – [God declares,] For I am about to do something new. (NLT)

Ezekiel 36:26-27 - I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations. (NLT)

Ephesians 4:24 - Put on your new nature, created to be like God...(NLT)

2 Corinthians 5:17 - This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! (NLT)

- I. *What goal/project have you invested time and attention in that you no longer care about? Why were you so invested in that goal/project? Do you now think it was a waste of time? Explain*

2. *Name an area of life that people struggle to find meaning in? Why do you think they struggle?*
3. *In Ecclesiastes 1:18, Solomon wrote, “For with much wisdom comes much sorrow; the more knowledge, the more grief.” How have you seen this to be true in today’s world?*
4. *How does knowing that Christ makes us new people (2 Corinthians 5:17) change your perspective concerning the mundane and routine labors of life?*
5. *Life “under the sun” reveals that the world is stuck in cycles. Through Christ, God is doing a new thing in the world (Isaiah 43:19, Ezekiel 36:26-27, Ephesians 4:24, and 2 Corinthians 5:17). Why do you think Christ is committed to changing people instead of changing the world?*

Prayer Focus: *Spend time praying that God would use us to help people discover their need to be made new in Christ. Try thinking of specific people that you can name in prayer that need to be made new in Christ.*