



FAITH

From “In the Beginning” to Amen – Life is Smoke

Icebreaker: What are your Vacation Plans?

Read Together: Ecclesiastes 1:2 (NLT), Ecclesiastes 9:3 (NLT)

Discuss:

- The word for “meaningless” in Hebrew is “**Hevel**,” meaning “smoke” or “vapor.”
- What was God speaking to you as Mark was talking?
- What are you building your life to look like?
- Most of life’s activities and goals are temporary. What temporary things do you enjoy?
- The paradoxes of life can be frustrating! What are some that Pastor Mark did not mention?
- What are the things you try to grasp that are like smoke?

Read Together: Ecclesiastes 2:4,10-11 (NLT), Ecclesiastes 7:16-18 (NLT), Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (NLT)

Discuss:

- Solomon gives a warning: Stay balanced. What does balance look like for you?
- How do you fear God and obey His Commandments?
- How can you position yourself to receive life as a gift?
- What do you need to stop trying to grasp?

Discuss:

“Nothing Better”

A repeated phrase in the book. So, be joyful, do good, enjoy walks, a garden, a friend, a tasty meal, a swim, a sunrise, etc...

Read Together: Ecclesiastes 12:1 (NLT)

Discuss:

- How do you remember God?
- Accept This: You cannot Control Your life. What emotions do you have when you remember that you do not have ultimate control?

Read Together: Ecclesiastes 5:18-20 (NLT), Ecclesiastes 9:7-10 (MSG)

Discuss:

- You cannot Control Your Life, but You Can Control Your Attitude. How is your attitude?
- How does God want you to live today?

Pray:

- Ask God to show you the things you are placing too much importance on.
- Ask God to show you paradoxes in your life that He wants to teach you through.
- Ask God to show you a good balance of the demands on your time.
- Ask God what HE wants to give you today!
- Ask God to help you receive His life for you with a grateful heart.
- Ask God to remind you of who HE wants to be for you.
- Ask God to help you live well today.