



# Harbor Trinity Groups

## *Discussion Questions*

**Sermon Title:** A Weary World: Beginning & End

**Scripture:** Ecclesiastes 1:1-11; 12:9-14

**Date:** September 6, 2026

**Speaker Name:** Justin Chandler

1. As we begin our new series in the book of Ecclesiastes, how familiar are you with the book? How familiar are you with King Solomon?
2. Ecclesiastes begins aggressively. “Vanity of vanities...All is vanity” (Ecclesiastes 1:2). In some ways, this falls short for us. Not only vanity, but vanity of vanities, the vainest vanity, vanity in the highest degree, nothing but vanity, such a vanity as is the cause of a great deal of vanity. An alternate translation is “meaninglessness of meaninglessnesses.” What do you think when you hear this response?
3. Why did Solomon, who had so much, feel this way?
4. One of the key questions of Ecclesiastes is, “What does man gain?” (Ecclesiastes 1:3). As you consider the scope of all that makes your life busy, what do you gain? How would you answer Solomon?
5. What observations does Solomon make in Ecclesiastes 1:4-11 to affirm this point?
6. Have you ever considered the “vanity of vanities” of these phrases? How are they reflective of the endless nature of toil?
7. During our series, we will read of Solomon’s great experiment and the conclusions he arrives to (Ecclesiastes 1:12-12:7). Based on Solomon’s response in Ecclesiastes 12:9-14, what do you think he believes?
8. These lines occur in Herman Melville’s *Moby Dick*. “The truest of all men was the Man of Sorrows (Jesus), and the truest of all books is Solomon’s, and Ecclesiastes is the fine hammered steel of woe. ‘All is vanity.’ ALL. This willful world hath not got hold of unchristian Solomon’s wisdom yet.” How does this quote support Solomon’s sentiment in Ecclesiastes 12:11.
9. Do you ever feel that there is never enough of something? Solomon felt this way of books and study (Ecclesiastes 12:12). This is a surprising reaction from the wisest man who ever lived. How does Solomon’s conclusion in Ecclesiastes 12:13 answer many of our questions?
10. Yet again we return to the summary, “Fear God and keep his commandments” (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Not only is this the summary of Scripture, but this has also been a significant theme this year at Harbor Trinity. How has our consistent conversation on this statement through a variety of books been impactful to you?
11. Our series is entitled, “A Weary World.” This reflects many of the themes within Ecclesiastes, but also speaks to a common sentiment today. Are there any ways you are weary? How can we pray together?