



Harbor Trinity Groups

Discussion Questions

Sermon Title: A Weary World: Work in a Weary World

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 4:4-16

Date: October 4, 2026

Speaker Name: Shane Costa

1. Ecclesiastes 4:4-16 is full of popular verses and phrases. Let's begin by reading the verses together. Is there one verse or phrase that is most familiar to you or sticks out to you most today?
2. King Solomon begins this passage with a unique perspective on why we run around and are so busy. Where in our society today do you see the envy of other works that King Solomon describes in Ecclesiastes 4:4?
3. Do you see a difference between Christian and non-Christian attitudes about work? If so, what are they? If not, explain.
4. Ecclesiastes 4:6 presents an interesting picture. What does King Solomon mean by "a handful of quietness" in contrast to "two hands full of toil"? Why would this also be a striving after the wind?
5. Have you ever known a person similar to the one described in Ecclesiastes 4:8? Do you ever consider your work or aspects of your life with the phrase, "For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?"
6. This would make the third time within the first number of verses that King Solomon describes the circumstances as a "vanity" or "striving after the wind." While this is a theme of the book, why do you think King Solomon's responses are compressed and continual within these verses?
7. King Solomon shares the benefits of community and relationship in Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. What are the three examples he provides? How do you apply each example within your own relationships?
8. Americans in general tend to be more independent, less group-oriented, than people in many other countries. Why do you think that is? Is there a time when a Christian should be independent? When should he or she seek out others?
9. Ecclesiastes 4:12 is most often used within marriage ceremonies (bridge, groom, Jesus). Although it isn't wrong, this isn't necessarily the application that King Solomon has in mind. How do you understand and apply these verses?
10. King Solomon shares the story of a poor wise youth and an old foolish king in Ecclesiastes 4:13-16. What are the lessons from the story? Do you think he was reflecting upon his own life positively or with regret?
11. What would be a step toward putting your priorities in better order?