Harbor Trinity Groups

Discussion Questions

Sermon Title: A Weary World: Power in a Weary World
Scripture: Ecclesiastes 8:1-17
Date: November 1, 2026
Speaker Name: Shane Costa

1. Have you ever shared wisdom, or had wisdom shared with you, that causes your face to shine or the hardness of your face to change (Ecclesiastes 8:1)? What kind of wisdom would do so?

2. In Ecclesiastes 8:2-9, King Solomon returns to the conversation about power, in particular political power. For the people of Israel, this would be focused specifically on a king. Do any of King Solomon's comments apply to how we understand modern politics within Costa Mesa, California, and the United States?

3. A global and historic truth is: "everyone is in and under authority." We all report to someone, and to a degree, someone reports to us. How have you experienced this in a positive or negative way based on Ecclesiastes 8:4?

4. What do you think has been the result of some of the "civil disobedience" that God's people (Old Testament, New Testament, and church history) have practiced? Is this ignoring the advice of King Solomon or applying it in a different way?

5. King Solomon returns to his thought, "for there is a time and a way for everything" (Ecclesiastes 8:6). While he provided many comparative "times" in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, he provides a deeper reasoning in Ecclesiastes 8:7 of the times and why "man's trouble lies heavy on him" (Ecclesiastes 3:6). What is it? Why is this true?

6. King Solomon provides a compare and contrast of the righteous and wicked once more in Ecclesiastes 8:10-13. What are the differences he notices among the righteous and wicked?

7. Have you ever experienced the scenario King Solomon presents in Ecclesiastes 8:10. "I saw the wicked buried. They used to go in and out of the holy places and were praised in the city where they had done such things." Is it possible for someone to attend church, live a wicked life, and still be praised? How is this possible?

8. One of our favorite statements in Alpha is, "Going to church doesn't make you a Christian anymore than going to McDonald's makes you a hamburger." How does this statement relate to King Solomon's observations in Ecclesiastes 8:10-13?

9. Is King Solomon's advice, "I commend joy, for man has nothing better under the sun but to eat and drink and be joyful" (Ecclesiastes 8:15) telling us to have a good time and ignore the problems around us? Is that good advice? Why or why not?

10. One of the symptoms of a weary world is lack of sleep. King Solomon mentions it here in Ecclesiastes 8:16, as well as in Ecclesiastes 5:12. How would you describe your sleep? Is there anything you are anxious or worried about? How can we pray for you?