

Chasing Shades

Leader Guide | Week 1

Key Things You Heard

- Solomon directed his God-given gift at cornering the market of the lower story...chasing shades.
- The pursuit of happiness in the lower story is an illusion.
- Ecclesiastes reminds us that your value in the upper story is incredible.

Pray

Heavenly Father, we often seek happiness in the lower story and forget that our value and purpose are found in the upper story. As we begin to look at Ecclesiastes, teach us the lessons of Solomon's pursuit of all things in the lower story. Then let us, in pure wholehearted pursuit, find how to live upper story lives in the lower story reality that we face every day. In Jesus' name, amen.

Tweetable Moments

"The upper story isn't about the things that God can give you in the lower story, its about God's presence in your life and His plan for your life."

"The good life is a God-life. Everything else is carnival barkers and throw away prizes."

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Questions for Conversation

Icebreaker: Do you have a favorite carnival or theme park memory? Would you be willing to share it?

- Read **1 Kings 3:4-13**. What does this passage teach you about God? Explain.
- Read **Ecclesiastes 1:2-3**. What does the phrase “...under the sun,” mean? Why is it so important to understand this phrase to correctly interpret Ecclesiastes?
- Jerry used the illustration of the lower story being like a merry-go-round. What did he mean? Have there been times merry-go-round moments in your lower story walk? What were they, how did they impact you, and how did you move into the upper story?
- The upper story isn't about the things that God can give you in the lower story. It's about God's presence in your life and His plan for your life. Where do you struggle in living in this truth? Why do you struggle? How would your life be different if you could live out this truth?

Now Go Do It (resources and next steps)

Challenge: To prepare for the coming series, watch the introduction video of the Spoken Gospel series, Jesus In All of Ecclesiastes, on RightNow Media. (<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/player/video/494441?session=494442>). If you want to go deeper in the study, watch the entire series and read along in your Bible.