

## Pleasure, Wisdom, Folly, Toil - Ecclesiastes 2:1-26

*Topics:* Abundance, Accomplishments, Achievements, Death, Desires, Discouragement, Foolishness, Frustration, God, Greatness, Life, Pleasure, Purpose, Relationships, Wealth, Wisdom, Work

### Open It

1. Why do you think the entertainment industry (movies, television, etc.) is such a booming business?
- \* 2. What priority do you think a person should give to leisure and fun?
3. What is something about work that you find satisfying?

### Explore It

- \* 4. What did Solomon say about his pursuit of pleasure? (2:1-2)
5. What sort of activities did Solomon find meaningless? (2:1-26)
- \* 6. How did Solomon try to cheer himself? (2:3)
7. What projects did Solomon undertake? (2:4-8)
- \* 8. In what way did Solomon indulge himself? (2:10)
9. What conclusion did Solomon reach when he considered all he had achieved? (2:11)
10. To what did Solomon turn his thoughts? (2:12)
11. What conclusion did Solomon reach about wisdom and folly? (2:12-14)
12. What did Solomon say would be the fate of the fool and the wise person? (2:15-16)
13. Why did Solomon hate life and all the things for which he had worked? (2:17-21)
14. According to Solomon, what does a person get for all his or her strivings? (2:22-23)
15. In what did Solomon say a person should find satisfaction? Why? (2:24)
16. What do we require to find enjoyment? (2:24-25)
17. What does God give? (2:26)

### Get It

- \* 18. When does pleasure become meaningless or even harmful?
19. With what sort of activities do people try to fill their life?
- \* 20. What sorts of distractions do you pursue to give your life meaning or significance?
21. To what extent are the fates of the fool and the wise the same?
22. Why did Solomon conclude that a person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in his or her work?
23. Why is it so hard to find satisfaction in our relationship with God?
24. How should we please God with our life?

### Apply It

25. In what way can you seek to please God with your life today?
26. What is one thing you can do to find satisfaction in your work this week?
- \* 27. How do you need to reprioritize your commitment to pleasure in light of its unimportance?