

## Opening Question

*Imagine yourself at age 20 – whether that is a long time ago or not. What was your biggest goal in life when you were 20 years old? How has that changed?*

## Read Together

**Ecclesiastes chapters 1 and 2**

## Big Idea

**We were made to pursue an IT in life and that IT is friendship with God the Father, Son and Spirit.**

## Discussion Questions

- 1) Throughout Ecclesiastes chapters 1 and 2, what specific things does the author – Solomon – pursue as his IT?
- 2) Through these same two chapters, what conclusions does Solomon make regarding those things he has been pursuing?
- 3) Read Jeremiah 9:23-24. What typical “pursuits” in our lives does God identify here? What does He say about the value of those pursuits? In the end, what matters to God?
- 4) Read Deuteronomy 17:16-17. What 3 things does God forbid the king of Israel from doing? Now read 1 Kings 10:26-29 and 11:1-4. Did Solomon obey God’s commands? What impact did his disobedience have on his life?
- 5) C.S. Lewis once wrote: *If within my heart I find a desire for something which nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.* Have you ever felt deep inside that you were made for another world? How would you describe those feelings? When did you/do you tend to feel them?
- 6) Dallas Willard once wrote that *God’s aim in human history is the creation of an inclusive community of loving persons, with Himself included as its primary sustainer and most glorious inhabitant.* How do you sense you (personally) and we (corporately) as a spiritual community called RockPointe are moving toward participating in God’s purpose?

## Challenge

This week make a deliberate effort to look for hints as to how people in our world think about and pursue the various IT’s in their lives. Watch your friends, family members, co-workers and neighbours. Keep an eye on the media – television commercials and magazine ads. Think about how this subtly effects how you think about what IT is in life.

## Prayer

Take time to pray for courage and discernment to identify those IT’s in our lives that we are pursuing that will never result in our finding IT. Please pray for our September IT series and its impact on our relationship to God.

## Next Steps

In 1985, Chuck Swindoll wrote a book about the book of Ecclesiastes he entitled *Living on the Ragged Edge*. Almost thirty years later, it remains a valuable read as it addresses relevant issues related to our pursuit of IT.