

Week 6: The Vanity of Religion

Date: October 24th, 2021

Passage: Ecclesiastes 9:1-6

Small Group Discussion questions help us dig deeper, connecting Sunday's sermons with our everyday lives. These questions have been designed to help Small Groups grow in their relationship with God, with one another, and with their neighbors. Please know that these questions are meant to be a resource to you. You do not have to follow them verbatim or get through them all. Use these questions in the way that best serves your Small Group.

1. **Read** Ecclesiastes 9:1-6
2. What stood out to you from the sermon and this passage? What challenged you? Encouraged you?
3. If someone asked you to explain the main difference between Christianity and the other major religions in the world, what would you say?
4. **Read** Colossians 2:20-23 [Note, verse 23 in the ESV reads "... *self-made religion*..." and the NIV reads "*self-imposed worship*"] - Discuss
5. The Preacher says that every person has a heart "full of evil" (Ecc. 9:3). Why do you think it is hard for people to admit this about themselves? Is it hard for you to admit this about yourself?
6. The Preacher says that our inevitable death in the future makes all of our religious activity a waste of time. Agree? Disagree? Why or why not?
7. **Read** Hebrews 10:4 - If all the OT sacrifices and religious practices could not "*take away sins*" then why did God make the people do them?
8. If you had to pick one Bible verse or Bible passage to explain the core message of the Christian faith, which one would you pick and why?
9. How can Christians really grow deep in their faith?

Pray: Thank God that He sent Jesus to come down to earth and save us. Thank God that you do not have to be "good enough" to receive His salvation. Ask God to show you how you can apply the gospel to your day-to-day life. Thank Jesus for conquering death and opening the way to Heaven.