



Key Passage: Ecclesiastes 12:13 / Lamentations 3:22-23

Key Thought: When we question the purpose of life, it is helpful to remember that life without God is futile, and God is present even in the darkest of days.¹

The gospel in Ecclesiastes:

Key phrase: “under the sun.” Comparison: “under the Son.”

There is no meaning or purpose without God. (Examples)

There is no better way to understand difficult meaning than in Christ.

The gospel in Lamentations:

Key phrase: “because of God’s great love.” Comparison: Jn 3:16

¹ Note, key passages, key thoughts, and hook questions come from Michael Williams, *How to Read the Bible through the Jesus Lens*. These notes are compiled from 4 principal sources. In addition to Michael Williams book, notes are also derived from Christopher J. H. Wright, *The Old Testament in Seven Sentences*, Christopher J. H. Wright, *Knowing Jesus Through the Old Testament*, and H. H. Drake Williams, *Making Sense of the Bible*.

Hook Questions:²

1. Why should we bother drawing in another breath? Have you become so focused on trying to gain meaning and direction for your life by your own effort that you have neglected the only avenue through which you can expect to find those things? How would you rate the meaningfulness of your life right now?
2. Where do we go to find out about the true life revealed in Jesus Christ? Do you really believe, along with the Teacher, that trying to find fulfillment in things, status, or work is “meaningless”? Are you taking any concrete steps to enrich your life by getting to know Jesus better?
3. Where do you find your security and comfort in life? Have the things you are trusting in ever failed you? Do you spend most of your time developing your relationship with God or developing your relationship with other things?
4. Are you as compassionate with others as God has been with you? Are you ready to be merciful and compassionate to those who, in your estimation, don't deserve it? What if God were like you?

² Taken from Michael Williams, *How to Read the Bible through the Jesus Lens*, p.64.