

For further thought and discussion:

Getting Started

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. What connections do you see between your relationship with God and your relationship with the Bible?

Going Deeper

3. Please read Ecclesiastes 12:9-11. These verses are like the author's notes at the end of a book, explaining how and why he or she wrote the book. What do you notice about how the author wrote Ecclesiastes? What do you notice about why the author wrote Ecclesiastes? What does Ecclesiastes have in common with the rest of the Bible? What is the author trying to tell us about the Bible with the pictures of goads, nails and one shepherd? Does vs. 9-11 change the way you see the Bible? How?
4. Please read Ecclesiastes 12:12-14. What is the author warning us of in vs. 12? How does this warning fit with the rest of the book? How can we weary ourselves with books and other media beyond the Scriptures? How can you apply vs. 12 in your own life?
5. How do vs. 13 summarize the whole book of Ecclesiastes? How does this conclusion make sense of everything under the sun? Why is it impossible to believe that we fear and trust God if we do not keep His commands? (Deut. 6:4-6) How does this command actually make life simpler?
6. How is vs. 14 the motivation for vs. 13? How does the gospel of what Christ has accomplished for us shape the way we understand and apply vs. 13-14?

Application

What is one lesson you've learned from this passage which you will apply this week? How will you apply it?