

## **Sermon Based Discussion**

**Sermon Title: Growing Young**

**Sermon Series: Growing Older: Better With Age**

**Sermon Text: Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8**

### **OPENING QUESTION**

1. What are some phrases or connotations that come to your mind when you think of "youth" or "young people"? Write them up on a board for your group to see.

### **INTO THE BIBLE**

#### **Read Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8**

This passage is from the book of Ecclesiastes, probably written by King Solomon. He writes about how life can be full of toil and meaninglessness. This is the last section of the book before the conclusion. In this last section, Solomon gives wisdom on what it means to be young.

2. The first line of chapter 12 states "Remember your Creator in the days of your youth." Do most people associate young or older people with religion? Why?
3. How does Ecclesiastes 12:2-8 describe old age? Would you agree with this assessment?
4. The instruction in 11:9-10 tells young people to do what pleases their hearts. How does this message compare with what young people are usually told?

### **GOING DEEPER (Sharing/Application)**

5. What would this passage say about someone younger who says, "I do believe Christianity is important, but I'm really busy these days. I'll get more into Christianity when I'm older..."? Will they?
6. The advice for young people is two-fold: pursue the desires of their heart and remember that God will hold you accountable for your life. Do most people see these as contradictory or complementary?
7. How does the gospel bring together a life of pursuing the passions of your heart while remembering God will hold you accountable?

### **CHANGING YOUR MIND**

*Be happy, young man, while you are young... Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God will bring you to judgment. (Ecclesiastes 11:9, NIV)*