

## Your Matters List- Covenant Grove

Kid pictures

*“Listen, my son, to your father’s instruction and do not forsake your mother’s teaching. They are a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.”*

*Proverbs 1:8-10*

*“My son, if sinful men entice you, do not give in to them.”*

*Proverbs 1:10*

*“My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity.”*

*Proverbs 3:1-2*

*The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem:*

*“Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”*

*Ecclesiastes 1:1,2*

**The amount of things in your life that really matter is much smaller than you think.**

**In our culture, meaningless things have taken on too much importance.**

*What do people gain from all their labors at which they toil under the sun? Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever. The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises. The wind blows to the south and turns to the north; round and round it goes, ever returning on its course. All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full. To the place the streams come from, there they return again. Ecclesiastes 1:3-7*

**Our culture places a high value on the accumulation of things.**

*All things are wearisome, more than one can say. The eye never has enough of seeing, nor the ear its fill of hearing. Ecclesiastes 1:8*

*“I said to myself, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good.” But that also proved to be meaningless. “Laughter,” I said, “is madness. And what does pleasure accomplish?” I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. I amassed*

*silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired male and female singers, and a harem as well—the delights of a man's heart. I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my labor, and this was the reward for all my toil. Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun."*

*Ecclesiastes 2:1-2, 4, 8, 10-11*

*What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun. Is there anything of which one can say, "Look! This is something new"? It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time.*

*Ecclesiastes 1:9,10*

**Our inventions are new, but what we seek never changes.**

*What do people get for all the toil and anxious striving with which they labor under the sun? All their days their work is grief and pain; even at night their minds do not rest. This too is meaningless.*

*Ecclesiastes 2:22-23*

**The amount of things in your life that you think really matter is much bigger than it really is. We think everything matters.**

**If everything matters and everything defines you it's no wonder we are exhausted.**

*"I feel thin, sort of stretched, like butter scraped over too much bread." Bilbo Baggins*

*A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment? To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness.  
Ecclesiastes 2:24-26*

**Find your purpose**

**Pursue God first on your matters list**

*To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge, and happiness.  
Ecclesiastes 2:26*

*Do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

*Matthew 6:31-33*

Exit question

Do you every feel exhausted by the sheer number of things in life that matter? How does the pursuit of your “matters list” keep you from living into your fullest self?

Key verse

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*Ecclesiastes 2:24-26*