



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 8: What's the Use?

Suggested Week of Use: July 25, 2021

Core Passage: Ecclesiastes 1:12-15; 2:18-26

News Story Summary

Four men from Germany recently set the world record for distance in tight-rope walking (also called highlining). In early July, they walked 2.1 km (1.3 miles), crossing a valley in the Swedish region of the Arctic Circle, at almost 2,000 feet in the air. The sun does not set during this time of year in that area, giving the team the time required to cross. Quirin Herterich, Lucas Irmeler, Ruben Langer, and Friedi Kuhne successfully crossed the distance, with Herterich going first. They walked across the valley on a narrow strip of nylon that took two days to rig safely. They wore GPS units to verify the height and distance.

For more about this story, search “four Germans set highline record in Sweden”.

Focus Attention

To replace the ideas under Focus Attention, write the following on the board or a large sheet of paper before adults arrive: the most daring thing I have ever done is...As adults arrive, allow them to record their answers to the question. Review their responses. Then tell the story of the men who set the new highlining record in the Arctic Circle. Ask: *What do you think motivated these men? Why do you think people do dangerous activities like this? Why would someone want to set a record for a dangerous activity?* Point out that some people will go to great lengths to find meaning and value even if it could cost their lives. Then say, *Today, we start a new study as we look at the Book of Ecclesiastes. The writer chronicles his effort to finding meaning and value in numerous ways but only found it in one place.* Challenge the group to reflect on the meaning of life over the next few weeks while exploring Ecclesiastes.

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the Analyze idea under Summarize and Challenge, recall the story of the four men who set a new highlining record. Lead the group to identify ways people might put themselves in danger to find meaning and purpose in life. Ask: *What have you learned about finding meaning outside of a relationship with God? What was the fruit of that pursuit?* Complete the step as suggested, leading the group to respond to the first question set under Apply the Text.