



Week Four | Jurassic Park - The Vain Pursuit of Control | 07.17-18.2021

Grow Deep Conversation Questions: Use these questions to help you process the message in your personal time of study or with your group. Time suggestions are based on a 90-minute group gathering.

Message Recap: We all have a deep desire to have control, but just like in Jurassic Park, at some point, we realize control is an illusion. And while that may feel disheartening at first, what Jesus wants us to remember is that we are not designed to be in charge, but He is.

» Opening (2-3 minutes)

- Introductions - this is especially important if this is your first meeting and if there are new members
- Housekeeping - clarify expectations
 - Remind your group that this is a confidential meeting
 - **Remember there may be many thoughts and views. Please remain kind and respectful during conversations.**
- Pray - open your time together in prayer

» Introduction (12 minutes)

- Ice-Breaker: What is a meaningless task that you have to do repeatedly?
- Digging Deeper: What does it look like to take Jesus seriously but not take yourself too seriously?

» Observation | Read Ecclesiastes 1:2-3; 2:10-21; 12:13-14 (12 minutes)

- What are your initial reactions to these passages? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses? Why?

» Key Principle | Life is vanity, so you can't mess it up. (10 minutes)

- According to Ecclesiastes 1:2-3, the author basically states that everything is meaningless. How is that hopeful?

» We spared no expense. | Reread Ecclesiastes 2:10-11 (10 minutes)

- These verses look at the vanity of pleasure and money. When it comes to identity, where do you tend to place your value or hope?

» Clever girl. | Reread Ecclesiastes 2:12-16 (10 minutes)

- These verses look at the vanity of wisdom. How do you connect to Jesus week to week as a place to hold value and hope?

» When we have control again. | Reread Ecclesiastes 2:18-21 (10 minutes)

- These verses look at the vanity of accomplishment. What needs to change in your life to trust God more than your abilities?

» You never had control. | Reread Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (10 minutes)

- Read Matthew 16:24-27. How do these two passages work together to help us better understand the level of control we have over our lives? Does this bring you comfort or worry?

» Next Steps and Prayer | (13 minutes)

- As you close, read Matthew 11:28-30. What actions does Jesus ask of us? What does He promise in return? How do you think these words can help us remember who we are and who He is?
- Close by praying for each other to find your value, worth, strength, and rest in Jesus, rather than toiling striving in vain.