

ADVENT Episode 1: A Christmas Story

Pastor Bill Bowers | December 2, 2018

From Sin to A New Hope

Scripture: Genesis 3 (NLT)

- Sin causes **distance from God**. (Genesis 3:1-8)
- Sin causes **strained relationships**. (Genesis 3:11-12)
- Sin causes **physical and natural suffering**.
(Genesis 3:16-17; 14-15; Matthew 1:20-21; Acts 4:12)

NOTES:

HOMEGROUP & PERSONAL STUDY QUESTIONS

Scripture: Genesis 3 (NLT)

1. Pastor Bill made a statement; “God selected the PERFECT NAME, for his PERFECT SON, TO UNFOLD A PERFECT PLAN.” Can you break this down and explain in your words what each of these mean?
 - Perfect Name:
 - Perfect Son:
 - Perfect Plan:
2. In what ways can you describe how your sin caused distance from God? Can you explain your perceptions about God when you feel distant from him? (Do you feel that God is mad, upset, disappointed with you? Do you feel you are unheard or incapable of praying effective prayers?) Please explain.
3. Please provide any examples of how sin has caused physical and/or natural suffering in your personal life.
4. The Advent Season is a time when we intentionally reflect on the “arrivals of Christ” (the Incarnational Birth, the arrival and gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit). In what ways have these arrivals helped you to overcome distance between you and God? In what ways have these arrivals of God helped alleviate the physical and natural suffering of sin in your life?
5. While we wait for the ultimate return of Jesus Christ and the inauguration of the Eternal Kingdom of God, we are promised that we are capable of living in and enjoying victorious life in the Kingdom of God while we wait for the Eternal Reign. What is your experience with living in the Kingdom while you wait?