



theridgechurch

LIFEgroup Discussion Questions

The Gospel: An Unchanging Hope in An Ever-Changing World

August 23, 2015

1. As you go back to the creation account, what is the great purpose for which God has created us for? How would you define and describe the relationship and fellowship that Adam and Eve had with God in the Garden of Eden?
2. The relationship and fellowship that man enjoyed with God in the Garden was one of a loving trust and innocence. Man trusted God's Word and trusted the gracious character of God. But Satan attacks those two things. How does Satan do that in Genesis 3.1-5?
 - In 3.1 Satan is attempting to show God as what?
 - In 3.2-3 what does the woman add to the law/command that was given in 2.17?
 - In 3.4 what is Satan attempting?
 - In 3.5 there is so much Satan is doing with this temptation. What is Satan saying about sin and disobedience to God? In this temptation what kind of mindset is Satan tempting the woman to have, which matches his?
3. In 3.6 and in James 1.14-15, we see similar if not an identical cycle of sin. When tempted to disobey in what ways do we rationalize and try to convince ourselves that eating of the forbidden fruit is ok? When you look at the sin of the man and woman, which one is deceived and which one jumps in with eyes wide open?
4. What is the immediate effects of sin of the man and woman in 3.7-8? They were promised liberation, but instead their innocence was replaced with the fear of shame and guilt. What were they attempting to do with covering themselves with fig leaves and with hiding?

In Genesis 2.17 God says if the man and woman disobey they will surely die (Romans 6.23). What are the three types of death that sin brings into the human race? They don't die physically immediately when they sin, but what separation do they experience (ultimately seen in 3.23-24)?

5. What do we see about God in Him pursuing and calling for the man (3.9-13)? How do the man and woman respond to God's questioning? Why do we not like to take responsibility of our sin?
6. What are the curses that fall upon God's creation as a result of man's sin (3.14-19)? Take some time to talk about the eight curses (serpent, beasts of the field, mankind, Satan, Christ, woman, man and creation).
7. Look at 3.15, which is referred to as the *protoevangelion*, meaning *the first gospel*. Take some time to discuss what is said in this verse, as it is talking about the strife and hatred that sin now brings into the human race (original sin, Romans 5.12; Psalm 51.5; Romans 3.23). Who is the seed of the woman and the seed of Satan both as a group and then individually? Who and what does the last part of 3.15 refer to? So, here we see even in the midst of the wreckage of Adam's sin hope for redemption. Read 1 Peter 3.18. What is the great gift of the gospel? It was lost in the garden, but now because of Christ we can have a relationship with God.

Pray.