

Small Group Discussion Guide

“Christmas Unwrapped” (pt. 1) – 12.01.2013

Scripture: Genesis 3:1-15

Bottom Line: When we unwrap the story of the original SIN, what we find is a coming SAVIOR.

INTRODUCTION:

This week we are kicking off Christmas at the Crossing! Ask each person in your small group to share the greatest Christmas gift they ever received and one of their favorite Christmas memories from their childhood.

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

Read Genesis 3:1-5

The first two chapters of Genesis give us front row seats to a very good God creating a very good creation! His very breath gives life to the lifeless and everything in our world comes into being. God dwelt with mankind and everything was very good. Suddenly the story takes a turn in Genesis 3 as the enemy of God is introduced. Satan enters into the scene and attempts to deceive Adam and Eve into betraying God.

- 1) In what ways does the enemy try to deceive Adam and Eve? In what ways does he still try to deceive people today?

Read Genesis 3:6-8

These verses contain one of the most heart breaking accounts in all of creation. Adam and Eve choose to worship creation over their Creator. Their sin reveals they didn't trust God, didn't want to be under His authority and believed He was withholding something good from them. Their betrayal and rebellion against God brings about sin and death into our world (Romans 5:12). Everything seemed hopeless.

- 1) What kind of impact did Adam and Eve's sin have in our world?

Read Genesis 3:9-15

When all seemed hopeless God steps in to offer grace and mercy. He does two things. First, He **PURSUES** Adam and Eve (3:9). He doesn't forsake them and leave them in their sins. Second, He **PROMISES** (3:15) to send "One" who would come and crush Satan's head. This is what is called "the first gospel". God promises to send one who would come and crush sin, Satan and death. Thankfully, God is faithful to His promises! The "One" whom was promised would be born centuries later and given the name, Jesus.

1) How does God respond to Adam and Eve's sin? What does God's response to our sin reveal about Him?

UNDERSTANDING HOW THE GOSPEL APPLIES TO MY LIFE:

God gave Adam and Eve all they could have ever wanted. He even warned them against eating of the tree because they would die if they did. The account of the fall is one of the most heartbreaking passages in all of Scripture. The impact of their decision has impacted every person who has ever walked the earth. **However, when we unwrap the story of the original sin, what we find is a coming Savior.** In the midst of our desperation a baby is born. He is given the name "Jesus" which means "God saves". He lives a sinless life and does miraculous things. He heals diseases, forgives sins and loves in a way our world has never seen. Ultimately, He would end up on the cross as He fulfilled His reason for coming to earth. On the cross He exclaims, "It is finished!" The promise that was made back in Genesis 3 was fulfilled. Three days later He rose from His grave showing that He had defeated sin, Satan and death. On the cross, Jesus absorbed the punishment for our sin and died the death we should have endured. Now, because of Jesus' death and resurrection, our relationship with God can be healed (2 Corinthians 5:21).

In Jesus, we are healed from all sin (past, present and future).

In Jesus, there is no longer guilt and shame.

In Jesus, we are eternally secure.

In Jesus, our debt is paid.

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

1) Take time to thank God for sending Jesus!

2) Who is someone in your life that needs to hear what God has done through Jesus? How could you share God's great gift with them?

3) Who are you inviting to our Christmas Eve-Eve-Eve service?