

LIFE GROUP LESSON

Grow Up • Week of November 10

Surprisingly, at least to our human experience, God was not at the center of the Garden of Eden. In fact, we don't have record that God actually dwelled in any particular place. You see God stands apart from time and space. God created the Garden of Eden and though He chose to inhabit the garden with Adam and Eve, God did not have to have a particular spot or place to inhabit in order to be God. You see God is God whether you and I believe so or not. God is still God, all powerful and mighty, whether God stands on the outside margins with hurting children or in the center of a garden.

What God did place at the center of the Garden of Eden were two trees. The first tree is called "The Tree of Life". This tree is referenced later in the Book of Revelation as chapter 21 speaks of a new heaven and a new earth. The second tree is "The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil". God gave Adam specific instruction not to eat from this tree, "...or you will surely die". For years we can assume that God had a good relationship with Adam and Eve until that day in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve moved from the Kingdom of God to the Kingdom of Me.

Note: Before reading the text get a pen and paper, or write in your smart phone these questions: 1) What was God's first gift to humankind that makes them truly made in the image of God? 2) How many rivers flowed in the Garden? 3) Where did God place Adam, and later Eve, in the Garden of Eden? 4) What were Adam and later Eve's jobs in the Garden?

Read Genesis 2: 4-16

Now, let's return to the four questions above. What did you write down as the passage was being read?

Note: Before reading the next passage, with pen in hand, or smart phone or tablet, write down your answers to these ques-

tions as the passage is being read: 1) What bad thing happened to Eve and Adam? 2) Whose fault was it? Was it God's fault that this bad thing happened to Adam and Eve? 3) When the bad thing happened to Adam and Eve how did God respond?

Now Read Genesis 3: 4-13

1. When bad things happen to good people is it not remarkable that people get angry with God? God gave Adam and Eve a rare gift as they were made in God's image. What is one of God's greatest attributes? God has free will. What limits God's free will? God's promises that God has made in covenantal love with us. Otherwise God can choose to love us or not love us. This is what makes the love of God so amazing.
 - a. Discuss why free will separates humankind from all other created order?
 - b. Since we have the ability to choose to obey God or not obey, to do good or to do evil then whose fault is it when people hurt one another? Why do we blame God?
2. When Adam and Eve sinned what was their first response? Why did they hide? What would have been a mature or "grown up" response to Adam and Eve's mistake of eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil? Do you respond with "grown up" faith or "not so grown-up faith" when you make mistakes?
3. Our Plain Truth is "Grown Up Faith is moving from the kingdom of me to the Kingdom of God". Let's look closely at the "kingdom of me" living:
 - KOG: Forsake not the assembling of yourselves
 - KOM: I don't feel like going to church
 - KOG: Bring your tithe into the storehouse
 - KOM: I can't afford it; they don't need it; this is mine
 - KOG: Pray without ceasing
 - KOM: Maybe at meals
 - KOG: Work out your faith with fear & trembling

KOM: I don't have time to serve
KOG: Deny yourself
KOM: No

Which one of these Kingdom of Me statements can you relate to the most? Which one is harder to actually live out?

4. Response and Life Application:

- a. Will you and your life group consider baking some baked goods and inviting 8 to 10 neighbors where your life group meets to Christ Church? Why not?

- b. Are you willing to act on spending half as much on Christmas with your family and spending the other half on a family in need? Why not? What's keeping you?

- c. Grown up Faith apologizes for things that we do or things that we say. Who do you need to apologize to? Who do you need to reconcile with?

Prayer: Gracious God, we understand that sometimes tragedy strikes beyond our control, yet often human beings are the cause of a lot of hurt and tragedy in our world. We apologize to you first for blaming you for human sin and rebellion. We pray God that you will help us grow in the likeness of Jesus Christ by moving from the kingdom of me to the Kingdom of God.

One Year Bible Reading

Nov. 10: Ezekiel 21:1-22:31, Hebrews 10:1-17, Psalm 108:1-13, Proverbs 27:12
Nov. 11: Ezekiel 23:1-49, Hebrews 10:18-39, Psalm 109:1-31, Proverbs 27:13
Nov. 12: Ezekiel 24:1-26:21, Hebrews 11:1-16, Psalm 110:1-7, Proverbs 27:14
Nov. 13: Ezekiel 27:1-28:26, Hebrews 11:17-31, Psalm 111:1-10, Prov. 27:15-16
Nov. 14: Ezekiel 29:1-30:26, Hebrews 11:32-12:13, Psalm 112:1-10, Prov. 27:17
Nov. 15: Ezekiel 31:1-32:32, Hebrews 12:14-29, Psalm 113:1-114:8, Prov. 27:18-20
Nov. 16: Ezekiel 33:1-34:31, Hebrews 13:1-25, Psalm 115:1-18, Prov. 27:21-22



Text: Genesis 2:4-16

1. We begin as _____ in the _____ of _____.

2. We move to Kingdom of _____.

PLAIN TRUTH:

Grown up faith is _____ from the Kingdom of _____ to the Kingdom of _____.