**HOME GROUP GUIDE**

**December 1, 2019**

**Genesis 3**

**Sermon Title: Advent-Hope**

**About this guide:**

This guide is provided to assist your home group in discussion and application of the most recent sermon. This guide provides direction for application-based discussion within a small group as well as discussion material. **Please know that the guide is not designed with the intent that every question be answered systematically**. Feel free to pick and choose the questions that fit your group and structure your time together using the guide to maximize your group’s benefit.

Notice organization of the guide: looking back, looking up and looking forward. “Looking back” is the time for the group to consider how the last week or two has gone, to share about struggles and victories. Consider choosing one or two items from this section to answer.

“Looking Up and Looking Forward” is a time to discuss the sermon and how the group might further apply the truth of God’s word, making specific plans individually and as a group to walk by faith in the week to come. This is also a time to encourage each other, minister to each other and pray for each other. Try to choose a couple elements from each section.

The guide also contains a family discipleship section with a few ideas on how to intentionally engage in following the Lord as a family.

**Looking back:**

* Share how you have been doing since you last met:
  + What biblical truths have been shaping your life and heart over the last week or so?
  + What has dominated your prayer life this week?
  + What was a “win” in your life this last week (something that happened that resulted in thankfulness, a moment of spiritual growth or victory, an answered prayer, etc.)?
  + What was the biggest challenge in your life this last week? Is there anything that you need to share with your home group in the form of confession?
* With whom were you able to begin to build a gospel bridge of conversation since the last time we met? With whom were you able to share the gospel message?
* How can the group help you in your life this next week?

**Looking Up and Looking Forward (Specific, Realistic, Measurable, Personal): Read Genesis 3**

1.     By definition, advent (ad·vent, noun) denotes the ‘the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event.’  During this December, the advent season, we as a family will be looking forward to the arrival of God to earth, here with us (Emmanuel), in the form of Jesus Christ (Savior).

* How do you as a family look forward to ‘notable arrivals’?  How so do you plan in this season to look forward to the celebration of Jesus arriving on earth?

* In Genesis 3:22, we are reminded that Jesus has been ‘with us’ from the very beginning (‘The Lord God said, “Since the man has become like one of **us**…  - emphasis added).  How does this change your perspective, if any, on his ‘arrival’ to earth that we celebrate at Christmas?

2.     Throughout God’s interaction with his creation throughout human history recorded in the Bible, we are reminded of two recurring themes: (1) the lifting up and exaltation of Jesus Christ and (2) the lengths that God, the Father, and Jesus, the Son, will go to demonstrate to us grace, mercy, and hope.

* How did Adam and Even interact with God following their act of disobedience?  They did not want to interact at all!  They ran away and hid.  When we do not live our life in a manner that God desires for us (sin), in what ways do we ‘run and hide’ in our own life today?   What impact does that have on our relationship with God?  With others?

* How did God interact with Adam and Eve following their act of disobedience? He sought them out (not in anger, God strolled through the garden…), He held a conversation with them, and He protected and provided for them.  God simultaneously allowed Adam and Eve to experience the consequences of their actions and loved them.  Is this type of love difficult to comprehend?  What does this love look like in your own family?

* God did NOT (v22-24) want Adam and Eve to have an eternal life in their current state (guilt, shame, apart from Him, etc.).  In order to protect them/us, he prevented access to the garden that held the ‘fruit’ that gave us eternal life.  Instead, God had a much different plan for reconciliation and eternal life.  And one that we get to ‘look forward to’ and celebrate each December. Based on this perspective, how can we view God’s exile of Adam and Eve from the garden as an overwhelming act of mercy and love?

3.     Even when our circumstances seem the most desolate, God continues to provide us with hope!  While God explains to Adam and Even that their life will look very different than it had in the Garden, in v15 He states that Satan may have ‘scored a victory’ in this short term battle (you will strike his heel) but that Jesus Christ has ‘overcome the world’ and scored the definitive blow (He will strike your head) over Satan, death, and Adam and Eve’s separation from God in the garden.

* As a home group, read Romans 5:12-21.  How does Paul use the backdrop of Genesis 3 as context to explain to the Romans that the victory of Jesus Christ is so ‘much more’?

* In 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 (read together), Paul reminds us again of the hope of Jesus Christ that we will gain life through him.  As followers of Jesus Christ, what would our life look like to ‘bear the image of the man in heaven’?

* Finally, please read together Hebrews 2:14-15.  With our hope in final victory brought to us by Jesus Christ, we get to experience freedom.  Freedom for ‘those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death’.  What would our life look like if we embraced the hope and freedom of Jesus Christ?  How would our daily lives look different than they do today?  How can we ‘look forward’ to this difference each and every day of this advent season (and beyond!)?

**Don’t forget:**

1. Pray for one another. Share one specific prayer request you need your group to pray each day until you meet again.
2. Pray for each of our campuses/venues: the Georgetown campus- Worship Center Sundays at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and Liberty Hill Campus at 11:00 a.m.
3. Pray for FBG families to be intentional with the Advent season. Ask the Lord to use this special season to help us be intentional with our families and others around us who don’t know Jesus.
4. Pray for Merry Christmas with Love. Sign up to volunteer and ask the Lord to use this time to serve people in our community and to open doors for the sake of the gospel.

**Family Discipleship:**

Pick up an Advent guide and use the guide to provide opportunities for you and your family to focus on Jesus this Advent season.