

O R I G I N S

It's easy to rush through life without pausing to understand our meaning and purpose. But to have a life worth living requires answering the Big Questions: Who are we? Why are we here? Where are we going?

The universe, life, order, meaning, gender, marriage, languages... everything we experience today started somewhere. In this series, we'll examine the beginning of human history and the Bible's answers to some of life's biggest questions.

Week Five: What's Wrong with the World?

Text: Genesis 3

When Creation was complete, humanity experienced complete peace and harmony with God, nature, and each other. In His love, God gave us the choice to love and obey Him or not. When Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, all that was ruined. The same is true for us: When we stray from God's Word, we ruin everything. However, when we return to God—His way and His promises—we can experience renewed hope in the mess we've made.

Discussion Questions: These three larger questions will drive our discussion:

1. What did the Holy Spirit say to you through Sunday's sermon and the associated passage?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. How can others in the group help you and pray for you so you can do what God told you to do?

What did the Holy Spirit say to you through the sermon?

- In Genesis, we meet a serpent who later turns out to be Satan. (See 2 Corinthians 11:3; 13-15; Revelation 12:9; 20:2.) What is his approach to ruin us? See John 8:44.

- Have you ever, like Eve, doubted that God is good? Describe the circumstances at that time. Have you resolved these doubts about God's goodness? If so, how?
- Read through the consequences of Adam and Eve's sin. (Genesis 3:14-19) What are all the things that are now messed up because of sin? Which of these hits closest to home for you?

What are you going to do about it?

- God also provides hope in the midst of the mess. What has God promised that we can cling to when the chaos of sin around us and within us begins to wear us down? (See Genesis 3:15, 20-24; Romans 5:17; Revelation 21:1-5; 22:1-5.)
- Why is it so important to know the word of God and to obey it? See how Jesus defeated Satan in Matthew 4:1-11.

How can others in this group help you or pray for you?

- God continues to give us free will today. We can choose to do life on our own terms or to:
 - Accept His gift of forgiveness and redemption, and
 - Obey His word in our daily lives
- What does this choice look like in your own life?
 - Have you accepted forgiveness and redemption from Jesus? Explain
 - How do you practice knowing and applying God's word in a practical way?

Memory Verse:

"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—"

Romans 5:12