

IN THE BEGINNING

THE
WORD

SESSION SNAPSHOT

THE CONFLICT THAT CHANGED THE COURSE OF HISTORY

NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

Genesis 2:18-25; 3:1-6

GOSPEL FOCUS:

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

TAKEAWAYS:

- God created everything, but sin corrupted everything
- God redeemed us through Jesus

LAST WEEK'S READING:

- Genesis 1-2
- Genesis 3-4
- Genesis 6-7
- Genesis 8-9
- Job 1-2

STUDY THE WORD

What is a piece of advice you've been given that has stuck with you?

What do you think God meant when He said, "It is not good for the man to be alone"?

How have you experienced your own need for other people?

What do you think it means that mankind was made in the image of God?

How does being God's image-bearer affect the way that you live your day-to-day life?

Do you think it's true that God designed us to be in relationship and community with one another? Why or why not?

What does it look like to use our relationships with the people around us in a God-honoring way?

What are the differences between what God told Adam and what the serpent said?

Was there any element of truth in what the serpent said? What does that tell you about the nature of the lies the enemy tells?

How have you found temptation coming in your own life?

How did Eve respond to the serpent's temptation?

What do you think we can do to avoid falling into the same response?

What advice have you picked up through the years about how to resist temptation?

What benefit do you think surrounding yourself with life-giving community will have as we fight the temptation to disobey the Lord?

APPLY THE WORD

Since the Fall in Genesis 3, humankind has battled temptation. Simply put, temptation is a choice about which fruit you prefer: the fruit that the tempter offers or the fruit that is produced by a life lived in obedience to the Lord. What the tempter offers is enticing--that is what makes it a temptation.

In a lot of cases, even though temptation comes in a million forms, it looks the same when you boil it down: it becomes a question of who is on the throne of your life. Are you tempted to trust your own standard above God's? Are you tempted to listen to your own voice instead of the Lord's?

In what form does temptation come most often to me, personally?

What specifically should I do to combat it when it looks like this?

How can I better prepare for when it comes next?

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Next Week's Reading:

- ***Job 38-39***
- ***Job 40-42***
- ***Genesis 11-12***
- ***Genesis 15***
- ***Genesis 16-17***

IN THE BEGINNING

THE
WORD

SESSION SNAPSHOT

PROMISE KEEPER

NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

Genesis 15:1-18

GOSPEL FOCUS:

Luke 22:20

TAKEAWAYS:

- God makes promises that He keeps
- God provides for His people

LAST WEEK'S READING:

- Job 38-39
- Job 40-42
- Genesis 11-12
- Genesis 15
- Genesis 16-17

STUDY THE WORD

What is an example of a promise that someone has made you?

Did they keep that promise?

Notice verses 5-6. If you were in Abram's position, do you think you'd believe God? Why or why not?

What do you think of God's response to Abram's disbelief? Does it surprise you? Why or why not?

Why is it difficult to trust God when you don't know the details?

Abram's actions in verses 10-11 show that he was willing to see God through, even though it might not have made sense.

Have you ever trusted God with a situation even though it didn't make "sense" in the moment?

How did that situation turn out?

Take a hard look at the way God made the covenant with Abram in verses 17-18.

What was God's end of this covenant--what did He promise to give Abram?

What was Abram's end of this covenant--what did he promise to give God in return?

How does seeing God's covenant with Abram affect the way you see His covenant with us through Jesus?

How does this give you hope?

How does this affect the way you see the people around you?

How does this affect the way that you live your day-to-day life?

APPLY THE WORD

When God makes a promise, He keeps it, regardless of what we do on our end to hold it up. He is a faithful God with an endless supply of mercy and grace, which He poured out for us through His Son on the cross. He made Jesus into the sacrifice that made the covenant of our Salvation binding, and He was the only party with an end to hold up.

How have you responded to the offer of grace God showed for us through Jesus?

How does that need to affect your daily life this week?

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Next Week's Reading:

- ***Genesis 18-19***
- ***Genesis 20-21***
- ***Genesis 22***
- ***Genesis 24***
- ***Genesis 25:19-34, 26***

IN THE BEGINNING

THE
WORD

SESSION SNAPSHOT

TRUSTING GOD THROUGH THE TESTS OF LIFE

NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

Genesis 22:1-14

GOSPEL FOCUS:

Hebrews 11:17-19

TAKEAWAYS:

- Growth in your faith requires testing from God

LAST WEEK'S READING:

- Genesis 18-19
- Genesis 20-21
- Genesis 22
- Genesis 24
- Genesis 25:19-34, 26

STUDY THE WORD

When have you had to make a difficult decision before?

How did that decision play out?

Abraham and Sarah had been waiting for fifteen years to get Isaac. But throughout this passage, we don't see any of their emotions. What do you think was going through their minds?

What do you think the difference between a "test" and a "temptation" is?

What are some things that we learn about Abraham in verses 3-10?

What do you think he meant in verse 5?

What do you think it means to demonstrate true faith?

What do you think it means to live by faith in today's context?

What are some situations that you've seen where people have had the opportunity to demonstrate faith?

Isaac was meant to be a sacrifice to God. Have you ever been asked to sacrifice anything to obey and follow God?

How have you seen someone living a life consistent with sacrifice?

Abraham named the place where he was to sacrifice Isaac "God Will Provide."

How have you seen God provide for you?

How does seeing God provide affect your faith in Him?

What can you do to look for opportunities to demonstrate that you are living by faith?

APPLY THE WORD

Living a life of faithfulness takes time. You have to grow into it, just like Abraham did. But as you demonstrate faith in the Lord, you will find that He will continue providing ways for you to grow in your trust of Him, and in return, your faith in Him will continuously be strengthened.

What is a situation you are facing right now that you can use to grow your faith in God?

What is a step you can take this week to demonstrate to God that you trust Him?

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Next Week's Reading:

- ***Genesis 27-28***
- ***Genesis 29-30:24***
- ***Genesis 31-32***
- ***Genesis 33, 35***
- ***Genesis 37***

IN THE BEGINNING

THE
WORD

SESSION SNAPSHOT

PRIDE COMES BEFORE THE FALL

NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

Genesis 37:1-11

GOSPEL FOCUS:

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

TAKEAWAYS:

- There are no accidents in the economy of God

LAST WEEK'S READING:

- Genesis 27-28
- Genesis 29-30:24
- Genesis 31-32
- Genesis 33, 35
- Genesis 37

STUDY THE WORD

When is a time you've had to make an attitude adjustment after recognizing where you've been wrong?

Where do you see strife and conflict beginning to pop up in this family?

How are each of the people in the passage contributing to it?

How do you usually respond to conflict?

If you are a parent: What are some ways that we are out of touch with what our kids are dealing with?

If you are not a parent: What are some ways you've felt like older generations are out of touch with what you are dealing with?

For everyone: How do you think that this divide can be bridged?

Why do you think that God gave this dream to Joseph?

Why do you think that what Joseph handled it was inappropriate?

Perhaps Joseph shared this dream because he was prideful. How have you seen pride lead to trouble before--whether it was in your life or someone else's?

Maybe Joseph shared the dream because he was seeking affirmation and attention from his brothers. When do you feel the need to get affirmation from others?

How have you seen destructive patterns in someone's life before, even if it was your own?

Why is it difficult to recognize patterns like this when you're in the middle of them?

What do you think it takes to break out of destructive patterns?

What role does the Holy Spirit play in breaking you free from them?

APPLY THE WORD

Pride plagues the heart of every single person, no matter who they are. It takes different forms for each of us, but once it takes root, it is difficult to break out of.

Pride is at the center of what sin is: at its core, sin is us believing our way, our thoughts, our code is more important than God's. For Joseph, pride looked like flaunting his status before his brothers. For his brothers, it looked like jealousy of what Joseph had. For Jacob, it looked like treasuring the relationship he picked more than the relationship that God gave him.

Where is pride taking a root in my life?

What do I need to do right now in response to it?

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Next Week's Reading:

- ***Genesis 39-40***
- ***Genesis 41***
- ***Genesis 42-43***
- ***Genesis 44-45***
- ***Genesis 46-47***

IN THE BEGINNING

THE
WORD

SESSION SNAPSHOT

LOSING YOUR COAT WITHOUT LOSING YOUR CHARACTER

NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

Genesis 39:1-23

GOSPEL FOCUS:

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

TAKEAWAYS:

- Temptation always has an escape
- God is in control of everything

LAST WEEK'S READING:

- Genesis 39-40
- Genesis 41
- Genesis 42-43
- Genesis 44-45
- Genesis 46-47

STUDY THE WORD

Verse 5 tells us that Joseph had the blessing of the Lord on all that he had. What does it mean to be blessed?

So far, how have we seen the burdens in Joseph's life ultimately be good things?

When have you seen burdens become blessings in your life?

Was Joseph more "blessed" in the pit or in Potiphar's house? Why?

Was God's presence more real to Joseph when he was being sold into slavery or when he was given power? Why?

New temptation came to Joseph during this season of his life. What are some new things we are dealing with in this season of our own lives?

What was the mindset that kept Joseph from falling into temptation? What does that mindset look like for us today?

When someone talks about "temptation," what is generally the first thing that comes to mind? Why do you think that is?

In verse 12, the word "escape" is the same word used to mean "escape death" or "retreat in battle." Why do you think leaving was so urgent for Joseph?

Paul explains that our bodies do not belong to us. What do you think this means? How does it affect the way we use them?

What do you think it means to view our bodies as Temples?

God's hand was on every part of Joseph's life—even these terrible times. How does that affect how you view the things you're dealing with right now?

What is a trial that you are facing right now? How can we help you, pray for you, or support you in it?

APPLY THE WORD

Joseph's story is one that is fraught with tension and drama, but more than that, it teaches us about what it means to learn from your mistakes, behave faithfully, and trust God with the outcome of our lives.

As we learn to trust God in the same way Joseph did, we will also learn how to better respond when we are faced with temptation in the many forms we find it.

Am I running away from a trial God is trying to guide me through?

What is something I have gone through that can help someone else currently struggling with it? Who is someone I can reach out and encourage this week?

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Next Week's Reading:

- ***Genesis 48-49***
- ***Genesis 50 - Exodus 1***
- ***Exodus 2-3***
- ***Exodus 4-5***
- ***Exodus 6-7***