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## GROWTH GROUP WINTER 2020

### GOSPEL GLIMPSES: JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

WEEK 1 – JANUARY 12, 2020 - GENESIS 3:1-15 AND ROMANS 5:12-17

#### GETTING TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER

1) Share a highlight, or where you saw God at work during the Christmas season.

#### SETTING THE CONTEXT

This winter we are going to be looking at some of the places we see Jesus in the Old Testament. The technical term for this is typology. Typology is the concept that people, events, and even physical places, in the Old Testament, prepare us for the arrival of the Messiah- Jesus Christ. They offer us a “type” or a “glimpse” of Christ that foreshadows the arrival of Jesus.

Three of the four New Testament gospels begin by looking back to Genesis. Matthew takes a look at the genealogy of Jesus. John says, “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.” Luke 3 takes us back to “Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.” Luke wants us to know that the story of Jesus begins with the story of humankind, and that Jesus was the son of Adam, the son of God.

In a sense, Adam is the representative man who prepares us for Christ. Where Adam failed, Christ succeeded. Jesus is not an afterthought of God, but is the one chosen from before time to show forth the true divine image. Jesus is both Alpha (the true Adam and firstborn) and Omega (the goal of human history and creation).

Adam’s testing in the garden prepares us for the testing of Christ. Adam and Eve were blinded by their own desires and did not question the authority of the serpent. In their rejecting of the word of God, they become captive to the word of Satan. In being obedient to Satan, they become friends of the devil and put themselves at odds with God.



The sin of Adam brings condemnation, not just to him and Eve, but to all of us, just as Christ's death and resurrection brings righteousness and salvation to all who are in him. The apostle Paul makes it clear that it is not just our personal sin that condemns us. Adam's sin is the "original" sin, and because of our relationship with Adam, the judgment that leads to condemnation belongs not only to Adam, but also to us.

Jesus arrives as the second Adam in order to restore all things. We cannot get right with God apart from Jesus Christ. Though sin entered into the world through Adam, the good news is that we are made righteous through Jesus Christ.

## EXPLORING THE TEXT

### Read Genesis 3:1-15

*<sup>1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" <sup>4</sup>"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup>"For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup>When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. <sup>8</sup>Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup>He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." <sup>11</sup>And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" <sup>12</sup>The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." <sup>13</sup>Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." <sup>14</sup>So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup>And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring[a] and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."*

### Read Romans 5:12-17

*<sup>12</sup>Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—<sup>13</sup>To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come. <sup>15</sup>But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! <sup>16</sup>Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. <sup>17</sup>For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!*

- 2) Why do you think God placed the “tree of knowledge of good and evil” in the middle of garden (Genesis 2:17) and told Adam (and Eve) not to eat from it?
- 3) In Genesis 2:15, we are told that the role given to Adam in the garden was to “work it and take care of it.” Literally, it says that Adam was to tend and guard the garden. As we know, Adam did not do a very good job of keeping evil out of the garden. Why would God allow the most “crafty” or “shrewd” animal to have access to the garden at all? Why is the devil allowed such direct contact with Adam and Eve?
- 4) In Genesis 3:2, Eve responds to the serpent’s question. Notice how the serpent is already twisting the original words of God from Genesis 2:16-17. The serpent has been able to not only distract Eve, but also reinterpret what God had actually said. Eve, then, also changes what God had actually said. It is a reminder of the importance of listening closely for God’s word. It is easy to get distracted in our society and “miss” what God is trying to tell us. Have you found a way that helps you “listen closely” for what God might be trying to tell you?
- 5) As we look at the Romans 5 text, the apostle Paul speaks to the concept of original sin. What do you think of when you hear “original sin?” Do you think it is right that all of us are somehow caught up in Adam’s sin? Do you think the concept of original sin is helpful in today’s world?
- 6) Paul speaks often of righteousness, in this passage in Romans. What does it mean to be made righteous? What does righteousness look like in God’s eyes?
- 7) In verse 14, Paul describes Adam as the one who is the “pattern” or “type” of the one to come. How do you see Adam as being the “pattern or type” of Jesus? What do you think Paul means by this?

## BRINGING IT HOME

- 8) Throughout the Scriptures, God is seen in relationship with His people. He is present in the garden in Genesis. Jesus walks from village to village with his disciples, teaching and healing and preaching. Share about a time in your own life when you felt that God was “present” with you?