

MISSIO DEI: WEEK 2

# THE MISSION OF GOD IN THE FALL OF MAN



## ICEBREAKER

Share an embarrassing, but humorous story from your life. (5–10 min)



## INTRODUCTION

Have someone in your Life Group read Psalm 51 out loud.



## RECAP

Have someone in your Life Group give a brief overview of the events from last week's story. (2–3 min)



## THE STORY OF THE FALL

*A narrative based on Genesis 3-4, 6-9, and 11. (10 min)*

One day, a deceitful serpent approached Eve. He asked her, “Did God really say you couldn’t eat any of the fruit in this garden?” Eve told him, “No, that’s not what God said. We can eat from any tree in the garden. It’s only the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil that we are not allowed to eat from—or even touch—or we will definitely die.”

The serpent lied to Eve and said, “You won’t die! God just knows that as soon as you eat from that tree, your eyes will be opened and you will become just like Him. You will be able to determine what is right and wrong for yourselves.”

“Hmm. I would be able to decide what is right and wrong?” Eve thought. She looked at the delicious fruit, contemplating the decision, and she believed the lies of the serpent over the words of the good God. She reached out her hand and ate some of the fruit. Then she gave some to her husband, Adam, who was there with her, and he ate it as well.

In that moment their eyes were opened, and they were flooded with shame. They quickly tied fig leaves together to cover up their nakedness. They had rebelled and chosen to live outside the good reign of God as King, and the effects were devastating.

Later that day, Adam and Eve heard God walking in the garden as He always did that time of day. When they heard Him, their shame caused them to try to hide behind some of the nearby bushes.

God called out to the man, “Adam, where are you?” Ashamed, Adam answered, “I heard you coming and I was afraid because I was naked.” God asked, “Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat the fruit I told you not to?” Adam replied to God, “It was the woman that you gave to me—she handed me the fruit.” Then God said to Eve, “How could you do this?” Eve said, “The serpent tricked me into eating the fruit.”



## THE STORY OF THE FALL (CONT.)

So God spoke to the serpent, “You are cursed because you have done this. You will now be the enemy of the woman and her offspring. You will bite at his heels, but he will crush your head!”

Then God turned to Adam and Eve. He knew His good creation would be drastically affected by their choice to live outside His good reign. He knew they would be subjected to sickness, pain, suffering, and even death as a result of their decisions. Because He is just, good, and unable to allow injustice or rebellion to remain in His presence forever, He had to punish them for their rebellion.

God told them the consequences of their sin:

- Women would have great pain in bearing children.
- Men would struggle, toil, and sweat while trying to cultivate the land—only to get a little bit of food from it.
- They would both struggle for power in their relationship.
- They would die and return to the dust from which they were formed.

Even though He gave them consequences for their rebellion, God still loved and provided for Adam and Eve. He gave them clothes made from the skins of animals they had previously named and cared for.

God sent Adam and Eve out of the garden, and then sent mighty warrior angels to guard its entrance so they would not be able to re-enter it. He also put a flaming sword in place to guard the Tree of Life so people couldn't eat from it. God's good creation was now drastically different, twisted and distorted from how He had made it.



## THE STORY OF THE FALL (CONT.)

Now, what you have to understand is that the story doesn't end with the rebellion in the garden. Like any good story, there is hope.

### The hope of this story lies in the promise that God was still on His mission.

In the midst of their realization that all of creation was now under a curse, Adam and Eve held onto the promise that the good God would someday crush the serpent through one of their descendants. A Victor had been promised.

After the disaster in the garden, Adam and Eve's rebellion continued to manifest. Adam and Eve had two sons, but one murdered the other! Things got so bad that God looked at the people of the earth and saw that the wickedness of man was great. Every intention of their thoughts was only evil. He decided to send a great flood over the entire earth to wipe out this rebellion and wickedness. But God was still on mission.

You see, He didn't wipe out every single human. Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord, and because of his obedience, he and his family were rescued from the flood. After the water subsided, God put a rainbow in the sky and made a covenant with Noah that He would never again destroy the earth by water.

You might think that Noah's descendants would figure it out and started loving and following God, but the rebellion ran deep. Pride dominated the world. People came together to build a tower to heaven. They wanted to make a name for themselves and avoid spreading out and caring for all of God's creation.

Rather than letting them have their prideful way, God was gracious and dispersed them across the earth, confusing them by diversifying their language. God was still on His mission.



### **RETELLING THE STORY** *Based on the above reading. (5–7 minutes)*

Retell the story of the fall as a Life Group, asking everyone to participate. See if you can summarize the events in order. Be sure to keep your participants on task to retell the story without leaning on previous knowledge of the narrative or getting ahead in the story.



### **DISCUSSION** *Reflecting on the story. (10 minutes)*

- What truth did Adam and Eve exchange for a lie? How do we still exchange truth for a lie?
- How was peace destroyed by the fall?
- Where do you see God's grace in this story?
- What do you learn about God in this story? What do you learn about His mission?



### **THE STORY OF PROMISE**

*A narrative based on Genesis 11–18, 22, 26–50; Exodus, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, 2 Samuel, and 2 Kings. Prophecies from 2 Samuel 7; Isaiah 7, 9, 40, 53, 61; Psalm 22; Micah 5; and Zachariah 12. (10 min)*

God didn't leave the nations in confusion and without hope forever. He called one man, Abraham, and made a covenant with him. The covenant stated that God would bless Abraham and multiply his offspring so that they would be a blessing to all nations. But Abraham and his wife had no children and were considered barren.

After many years of waiting, Abraham had a child named Isaac. In one of the most dramatic scenes in the Bible, Abraham was instructed by God to sacrifice Isaac, the child of promise. At the last moment, God provided a ram for the sacrifice instead. The ram was substituted for Isaac, and the promise continued.



## THE STORY OF PROMISE (CONT.)

Isaac multiplied into a great nation called Israel. As generations passed, Israel became enslaved to the Egyptians, the strongest nation in the world. They were beaten, abused, mistreated, and hopeless. They cried out in misery to God, and God heard their cries for help.

He rescued them by His mighty hand using a man named Moses. This exodus from Egypt was the great act of God that Israel would always look back on and remember, saying, "God is our Savior and will keep His covenant with us!"

Soon after they were rescued from slavery, God spoke to Moses on a mountaintop and told him the commandments the Israelites were to live by. However, just like Adam and Eve, the people of Israel didn't always obey these commandments.

Because God always does what is good, right, and perfect, He could not overlook their sins. The ultimate punishment for sin was death. A life had to be given to pay for each person's disobedience. However, God loved His people, so He provided a way for them to substitute the life of an innocent animal in place of their own. This pattern of an innocent lamb being substituted for sin would continue long into the future.

You might think that, after being rescued out of slavery, Israel would finally forsake their rebellion against God. That wasn't the case. As they journeyed to the land God had promised them, they began grumbling against God. They even wished they could go back to their slavery in Egypt. At one point, they took all their gold jewelry, melted it down, and made a golden calf to be their god instead. But their rebellion could not thwart God; He was still on His mission to restore and redeem His creation.

After forty years, God raised up a man named Joshua to lead Israel out of the wilderness and into the beautiful land He had promised them. God had rescued them out of slavery and into the safety of their own land.



## THE STORY OF PROMISE (CONT.)

You might think that, since Israel was safe in their new land, they would break their legacy of rebellion against God. But rather than worshipping the true God, they quickly fell into a devastating cycle of rebellion against God. For centuries, they would fall further and further away from the God who had rescued and delivered them. But God was still on His mission.

Even though God had shown Himself to be a good King, the people cried out for a human king. So God gave them kings, and one such king was named David. David ruled well and brought the nation together. When David was about to die, God made a covenant with him that one of his descendants would reign over God's people forever.

David's sons didn't take after their father, and they certainly didn't follow God. They turned to the gods of other nations and led the people astray. Because of their rebellion, God brought other nations to conquer and exile Israel from their land. All seemed lost, but God was still on mission.

In the midst of Israel's exile, God spoke to them through prophets. He gave them a great promise that He would one day come and rescue His people. He would send a mighty and humble Servant to redeem them.

So God's people were left waiting, longing, and hoping for the day when God would rescue them.



## RETELLING THE STORY *Based on the above reading. (5-7 minutes)*

Retell the promise story as a Life Group, asking everyone to participate. See if you can summarize the events in order. Be sure to keep your participants on task to retell the story without leaning on previous knowledge of the narrative or getting ahead in the story.





**DISCUSSION** *Reflecting on the story. (10 minutes)*

- What was God's promise to Israel?
- What was Israel supposed to do? Did they do it?
- What do you learn about God in this story? What did you learn about His mission?

## ENGAGING IN THE MISSION OF GOD



1

Consider your own sin. Take extended time in solitude this week to reflect and repent. Then, confess your sin to a trusted fellow believer. When people confess their sins to you, practice offering grace and pointing them towards the Gospel!

2

What's one area of your life that you find it difficult to fully trust God in? Find two or three Bible verses that speak to the promises and faithfulness of God (like Psalm 23 or Lamentations 2:22–23). Write them on note cards and post them where you can see them. Work to memorize at least one of the verses this week.

*Note: Your group members can choose to hold each other accountable by focusing on the same key verse.*

3

Come up with your own idea! Respond to the fall and God's promise in a way that's challenging/stretching for you.