

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

ADVENT SERIES

These questions are for the **December 3, 2017** sermon, "The Beginnings of Christmas I." Please read the sermon passage (Genesis 3:8-24) together out loud.

SERMON OUTLINE

CONSIDER THE EFFECT OF . . .

1. God's presence upon this fallen world (8-13)
 - a. The "LORD God," refers to the covenant keeping, relational God.
 - i. In our sin we try to hide from God.
 - ii. But he comes looking for us.
 - b. Note the breakdowns that have occurred because of our sin:
 - i. We try to hide ourselves from God. Theological breakdown.
 - ii. We are aware of our own sin. Psychological breakdown.
 - iii. We are at odds with others. Sociological breakdown.
 - iv. The earth yields fruit with thorns. Ecological breakdown.
 - c. Our pursuit of freedom has made us a prisoner.
 - d. We avoid God, and then blame God for our own sin and shortcomings.
2. God's promise upon a fallen world (14-19)
 - a. While sin requires death, God was incredibly gracious to us.
 - i. He spoke of a future for Adam and Eve. (Eve would bear a "seed.")
 - ii. He spoke of a future Deliverer who would come to destroy our enemy.
 - b. Adam is named as Jesus' forefather.
3. God's protection upon this world (20-24)

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: God should not be known as simply some far-away being. He wants to be known as a "covenant keeping" and "relational" God. In what way have you grown in your understanding of, interaction with, and love for God in 2017?
2. Based on #1, above: Sin is the cause of major breakdowns in all of life. Review the "breakdowns" (above, 1. b. i-iv.). How has your pursuit of freedom only made you a prisoner? How is God restoring health in each of those categories of breakdown? Which of the breakdowns will not be fully healed in this life?
3. Based on #1, above: Adam blamed God for his own sin, saying, "If you had given me a different wife, maybe I wouldn't sin." In what ways have you blamed your current sin on your past circumstances? How can you stop doing this?
4. Based on #2, above: God is immediately gracious, loving and kind to Adam and Even when he sees their rebellion. He promises a Redeemer! Discuss.
5. Based on #3, above: It is Christmas! How did this sermon increase your joy?