

# **UPSTATE GROUP GUIDE**

Through the Bible

January 13-19

Genesis 1-3

# Things to Know

## **Equipping U - Simpsonville**

January 8-May 7 - Click Here to Register!

## **Equipping U - Haywood**

January 8-May 7 - Click Here to Register!

### **Equipping U - Anderson**

January 15-April 30 - Click Here to Register!

## Reckless Weekend - Middle & High School Students

February 7-9 - Click Here to Register!

# Studying God's Word In Community

Reminder. Seek to understand and apply God's word, not rehash the sermon.

## Read

#### Read Genesis 3:1-22 and make observations about the text.

- What is God teaching us in the passage?
- What does this reveal about who God is, what God has done, and how I should respond?
- Which part of the text was most meaningful to you and why?
- What do you need help understanding about this passage?

## Sermon Recap

- Genesis 1-3 is the explanation for the world around us. If we understand these three chapters of the Bible we can understand why the world is the way it is.
- The foundations of the Christian worldview are seen in Genesis 1-2.
  - o There is a God who is, was, always was, and always will be.
  - He created all things, and all things were created good.
  - o God created all things, so God gets to say how all things work.
- The first sin originates in the heart of man and woman when they determine to do things their way and see autonomy from the God whom they are totally dependent on.
- Though sin has broken the world we live in, God has not left us alone. In the brokenness of Genesis 3 we see two promises of redemption for the people of God. God promises a Savior (Gen. 3:15), and God covers our shame (Gen. 3:21).

## Discussion Questions

### God's Design: The Goodness of Creation

- *Question*: In Genesis 1:31, God declares His creation "very good." How does this statement reflect God's perfect design and intention for the world? How should this shape our view of the natural world and human life today?
- Reference: Genesis 1:31 "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good."

### God's Design: The Role of Humanity

- *Question:* Genesis 1:26-28 describes humanity being made in God's image and given dominion over creation. What does being made in God's image mean for our identity and purpose? How does this inform a Christian worldview of work, stewardship, and relationships?
- Reference: Genesis 1:26-28 "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over..."

### Satan's Deception: Twisting God's Word

- *Question*: In Genesis 3:1-5, the serpent questions God's command and character, saying, "Did God really say...?" How does this pattern of deception reveal Satan's strategy to lead humanity into sin? How can we guard against such tactics today?
- Reference: Genesis 3:1-5 "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman.

#### Man's Redemption: God's Pursuit of the Sinner

- *Question*: After Adam and Eve sinned, they hid from God, yet He sought them out (Genesis 3:8-9). What does this teach us about God's grace and His desire for relationship even when we fail? How does this foreshadow Christ's redemptive work?
- Reference: Genesis 3:8-9 "But the Lord God called to the man, 'Where are you?"

### Man's Redemption: The Promise of the Gospel

- *Question*: Genesis 3:15 contains the first promise of a Savior, saying the seed of the woman will crush the serpent's head. How does this verse point forward to Jesus Christ and the ultimate victory over sin and Satan? How does this shape our hope as Christians?
- Reference: Genesis 3:15 "He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

# Scripture

Genesis 3:1-7

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You[a] shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die." 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise,[b] she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

# Living on Mission In Community

Before you close the group, answer this question:

How is God leading me to respond to His Word this week?

The opening chapters of scripture are foundational for the Christian worldview. Sometimes, in a broken world like ours, Christians look around and become really frustrated with the state of things. Genesis 3 tells us why everything is the way it is. The good news of the gospel is that Jesus has come to fix what is broken. Instead of being frustrated with the broken world we are called to carry Jesus into the broken world. How is God calling you to carry Jesus with you to restore what is broken?

# Optional Breakout Questions

Consider making time at the end of the group to break out into groups of 2-4 (keep them gender specific).

Have them answer these three questions about their weeks:

- 1. How did you feed yourself?
  - o (What have you been doing to feed your spiritual life, and how is it going?)
- 2. How did you feed others?
  - (How did you share the gospel or gospel truth with someone this week?)
- 3. How did you feed your flesh?
  - (What sins did you struggle with this week? How can your friends hold you accountable?)

# Leader Resources

If you are a leader and would like extra resources or a full curriculum guide, <u>CLICK HERE.</u>

