



GENESIS 3:1-13

Community Group Study Guide Week of September 22, 2019

We continued our series "Tough & Tender" this week by looking at the topic of responsibility. We live in a culture that seems to be forgetting the necessity of personal responsibility. This abdication is present in the church as well. Instead of laying down our rights to serve others, we demand our rights and want to control others. Instead of being thankful for what we have, we live with an entitled sense of envy over what we do not have. Instead of taking responsibility for ourselves and those around us, we shirk responsibility and shift the blame to our environment, others people, or even to God.

When God created Adam and Eve, He entrusted them with the profound responsibility of "working and keeping/guarding" the garden of Eden. God gave them the privilege of joining His creative work and having dominion over the Earth. With that privilege came responsibility and accountability. When Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, they were not merely failing to obey God's clear command, they were abdicating their responsibility to rightly rule over creation, and joining Satan in his campaign of rebellion. When God confronts Adam and Eve they once again shirk responsibility. Eve blames the serpent, and Adam blames Eve (and ultimately God, "the woman *You* gave me").

This pattern of rejecting responsibility and shifting the blame is repeated throughout Scripture and has been perpetuated by every individual throughout human history. Even the best of us fall far short of perfectly fulfilling our responsibility to uphold and keep God's law. The beauty of the Gospel is that God did not turn his back on us, but sent his own Son, Jesus Christ, to take responsibility for our fault and stand in our place. Our sin was not his fault, but he took it upon Himself to make us right with God. Our sin was imputed to Jesus, so that by grace through faith, His righteousness could be imputed to us.

The grace of Jesus Christ not only justifies us before God, it also empowers and strengthens us to fulfill our purpose by taking responsibility for ourselves, and ultimately for others as well. As we walk in the Spirit, and grow in the grace of Christ, we begin to work and keep our lives in order by exercising dominion over the garden of our souls. Through Christ, we take responsibility for our thoughts, our desires, our emotions, our actions, and our spiritual health. We strive to put our theology, worldview, physical health/nutrition/fitness, calendars, finances, and every other aspect of our life in ordered submission to Jesus Christ. As we do, we experience the blessed freedom of Christ which better equips us to serve and be a blessing to others as well.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To know that we've all failed to take responsibility, but Jesus has taken responsibility for us, and now empowers us by His grace to take responsibility and fulfill His purposes for us.

Heart

To trust that God's law is wise and good, and that we've been designed to flourish as we live in submission to it.

Hands

To look at the practical aspects of our lives and take responsibility for putting them in order by the grace of Jesus Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership or Baptism:

Contact

admin@mosaicboston.com to sign up for our next membership class or learn more about baptism.

Mosaic JP:

Please keep Mosaic JP and other faithful Boston church plants in your prayers. If your CG would like to serve Mosaic JP together on a Sunday please contact Andy Hoot at andy@mosaicboston.com.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Before you begin, make sure you take plenty of time to get to know any new people who might be joining your CG over the next several weeks.

Read Genesis 1:28; 2:15-17; 3:1-13

1. Have you ever thought about Adam and Eve's sin in relation to their God-given responsibility to have dominion over the Earth, and to work and keep (or defend) the garden? How has that idea challenged or enriched your understanding of Genesis 3?
2. Our greatest responsibility is to keep God's commands and live out His purpose for our lives, but we all fall far short and fail. Have you ever thought of the Gospel in terms of Jesus taking responsibility for us? How does that change or deepen our understanding of what Christ has done for us?
3. It's always tempting to avoid responsibility or blame others for the problems in our lives, but why does this usually backfire on us? How can a readiness to take responsibility lead to a more resilient life?
4. Can you think of a time in your life where some aspect of your life was out of order and you needed to take responsibility for putting it in order? What did you do? What did you find helpful?
5. Taking responsibility can be painful and often requires sacrifice and hard work. How does the Gospel empower us to follow through and live more disciplined and responsible lives?
6. How does being disciplined and responsible actually lead to greater freedom in life? Can you think of some practical examples?
7. How does the freedom that comes from being disciplined and responsible enable us to better love and serve others?
8. Adam and Eve were called to work and keep the garden. The "work" was to put the garden in order, and the "keep" was to protect it and defend it from things that could throw it into chaos. Where has God been calling you to "work and keep" dominion over your life recently (spiritual health, nutrition, fitness, finances, schedule, family, etc.)?
9. How can we "be our brother's keeper" and help one another take responsibility for these important aspects of our lives? Do you have any examples of this happening from your life?