

The With-God Journey

Date: January 15, 2023

Title: The With-God Life vs. The Without God Life

Text: Genesis 1-3

Small Group Questions

1. When you hear the phrase “the with-God life,” what comes to mind for you? In what ways have you and/or do you strive to live a *with-God life*?

2. Read Genesis 1:26-28 and 2:15. How were the first people called to live a with-God life? What might that life with God in the Garden of Eden have been like?

3. Read Genesis 3:1. Then, read Isaiah 14:12-15, which describes “the fall of Satan.” How does pride move us from a with-God life to a without-God life.

4. In his book, *Falling for God*, author, Gary W. Moon (Fun fact: he’s Pastor Dave’s doctoral supervisor) writes, “The imagery of the Garden of Eden portrays God’s intent for humanity . . . All they [Adam & Eve] had to do to keep paradise was to live in obedience—human will in union with divine intention. But they screwed up and discovered that autonomy comes with a staggering price. Adam and Eve did two things that severed their relationship with God. Seeds of distrust planted in their souls ripened and caused each first to *grasp* and then to *hide*. In *grasping* the wrong tree, they voted that they cherished control, independence, and self-determination more than surrender, community, and abandonment to God. In *hiding* they moved into a world of shame and isolation and out of the realm of grace and togetherness.

Like Adam and Eve, in what ways do you move from a with-God life to a without-God life by *grasping* and *hiding*?

5. Moon goes on to write, “Our journey back to God’s arms is always the path from life in our kingdom of “grasp” and “hide” to life in God’s kingdom of “surrender” and “embrace.” As we begin this with-God journey, how might God be inviting you to surrender your will to his, and calling you to embrace his love and forgiveness?

6. Read Romans 5:12-21. How did Adam’s life impact our lives? How does Jesus’ life and work redeem our lives—inviting us to a with-God life?

7. Close by praying for one another and our world. Let’s boldly ask God that we’d be a with-God church—being with him and joining him in his redemptive work in the world.