

SEVEN DEADLY SINS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 1: THE VIRUS AND THE ANTIDOTE

Read the Text

Genesis 3:1-13

1 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.

Main Point

Exploring the Seven Deadly Sins provides an opportunity for us to plumb the depths of our hearts and root out these seven vices that lead to lives that are incongruent with the hope, peace, and joy we all seek and that can only come from Jesus. But to do this hard work, we need to have a solid understanding of what sin even is. ***Sin is anything that breaks our relationship with God***

and other people. As we see with Eve, sin leads us to mistrust God where we question his goodness and try to take matters into our own hands. Whether we're aware of it or not, we feel that brokenness and we retreat and hide from God in our shame. But how do we even know we're sinning? Are all desires whether it's for career success, a healthy family, or deep relationships inherently sinful? Well... it depends. **Whether we're in sin or not depends on whether the choice leads to connection with God and your human flourishing, or disconnection with God and your lack of flourishing.** But the good news is that there is hope. God does not leave us alone to work out our sin by ourselves or on our own strength. Through Jesus, our sin is forgiven and taken away and we are made whole, clean, and unashamed. **The antidote to our sin is Jesus.**

Reflect Together

- 1. Who is God?:** We were dead in our sin, but are made alive in Christ. Sin separated us from God, but through Jesus, we are reconciled. How do you keep yourself reminded of this amazing truth? Where do you sometimes struggle to accept it?
- 2. What has He done?:** Despite Adam and Eve's sin, God pursues them. Where have you experienced God's pursuit of you when you're struggling in sin? Where have you experienced freedom and forgiveness from sin in your life, and what did you learn about God's saving grace in that process?
- 3. Who are you?:** Here's a fun activity 😊: look at the seven deadly sins and share the one you think you struggle with the most. How do you think God may want to grow you in this? The sins are: greed, envy, wrath, lust, gluttony, laziness, and pride.
- 4. What are you to do?:** This sermon series is meant to be invitational. It invites us in to examine sin and find our hope in Jesus. Who in your life needs this good news? Who could God be leading you to invite? What's a specific next step you could take in that?

Abide Together

As an MC, pray together about what was revealed during this discussion. Pray that the Spirit would open your hearts for what He has to reveal to you during this series.

Mission Together

Who in your life needs to hear about the saving grace of Jesus? Think of one non-believer in your life that you could pursue this week. It could be as simple as a text message where you check in with them, or as bold as inviting them to the gathering on Sunday. Remember that the point isn't necessarily their response, but rather your obedience in practicing the presence of Jesus with others and living boldly in your faith.