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**Holiness Lost**

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**God is the source of all holiness.**

...and God saw that it was very good. Genesis 1:31

**Holiness lost.**

One day Cain suggested to his brother, "Let's go out into the fields." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother, Abel, and killed him. Gen 4:8 NLT

**How regret happens.**

Genesis 3

**The lie... If you break free from God, you'll gain something you don't have.**

"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup> "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Genesis 3:4, 5

**The truth... If you break free from God, you'll lose everything He has provided.**

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Genesis 3:8

**What we lost through sin can only be restored through Christ.**

The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. Genesis 3:21

- God restores our connection with Him.
- God restores our identity in Him.
- God restores our connection with others.
- God restores our purpose.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 1 Peter 2:9-10

Regret can lead to restoration.

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**Let's Connect**

- What is the most valuable thing you've lost?

**Let's Talk About It**

Have you ever lost something that could never be replaced? Our sin caused us to lose what can only be found in God. God created us to be like Him and reflect His love and goodness to the world. But our sin affected God's perfect creation, our ability to relate to a holy God, and our ability to live the holy life He created us to live. Thankfully, God had a solution! Through Jesus, God provided a way for what was lost through our sin to be restored through Christ.

Genesis 1:26-31; Genesis 3:1-8, 11-12, 21; Genesis 4:8; 1 Peter 2:9-10

- Which part of the message impacted or challenged you?
- Read Genesis 1:26-31. What does holiness mean to you? What does it look like lived and cultivated in your life?
- Read Genesis 3:1-12. Describe the road to regret described in this passage. What similarities do you see in our world? In your life?
- Are you listening to any snakes? What are some steps you can take to move in a different direction?
- Is there something in your past you need to allow God to restore? If you feel comfortable, discuss it with your group. If not with your group, confide in someone you trust who can help you.

**Take a Step**

- Are there some regrets you need to bring to the cross for forgiveness and restoration? If so, take some time to pray and ask God for forgiveness and restoration.

**Here's My Prayer**

God, You are holy because You alone are the one and only, unique author, creator and sustainer of all life. There is no one like You! Thank You for being a holy God who is also gracious and kind. Jesus, thank You that You've made a way for me to be holy, even when I struggle with sin. I pray You would reign over my heart and renew my inner self day by day. Change me from the inside out so that I may be a light in this world. In Your name, I pray. Amen!