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SERIES 1: IN THE BEGINNING DEALING WITH OUR SIN

TRUTH ABOUT GOD///

Although God judges sin, He also makes a way for redemption.

SERIES AIM

God was intentional about His creation and the purpose it would serve, and the same can be said for the way He created you and me. God loves us and made us to thrive and live according to His perfect will.

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Genesis 3:1-24

LESSON BIG IDEA

I will cultivate a lifestyle of daily repentance.

WHERE DO WE BEGIN?///

Paul gave a clue as how to live a consistent life that will always move toward God and His ways. In Galatians 5:24 Paul said that those belonging to Christ “have crucified the flesh.” Obviously, we see it is not a physical death, but spiritual. Going back to the Old Testament example of the physical sacrifice on the altar, we see the parallel that repentance is a form of death. We kill our flesh (our selfish human nature), tell it “no,” and willingly choose God’s way. In light of this concept, we have to take action, as Paul made so vivid, and repent every day. Repentance is a vital part of a daily walk that leads us into God’s presence and His ways.

We should try to be consistent every single day. Repentance, prayer, and the reading of the Word of God help us to combat our flesh (our natural tendency to sin). If we regularly do these things, they will help us live life that are free from the many distractions and temptations that would otherwise cause us major problems.



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? ///

The following questions, devotions, and action points can be used any way that you feel comfortable. We suggest that you use a journal, your notes app on your phone, or even the spaces provided in this daily devotional book to take notes, write answers, and make lists. The purpose of this resource is simply to give you a space to interact with the Word of God and reflect on what you learn from that experience.

/// What spiritual direction do you feel like you are going now?

/// Are your actions supporting the direction you want to go?

/// Think about a time when you had to repent and it was hard to surrender. What caused you to decide to choose God's way?

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE ///

REPENTANCE IS NECESSARY

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Read Genesis 2:9.

And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

This verse shows us the beauty of God's creation. All things that He made were pleasant to the eye, beneficial to the earth, and created to exist in the natural order of the world. This order and beauty extend far beyond trees and fruit. As God's creation, we are beautifully and wonderfully made; every quirk, talent, and detail that we see in ourselves or in others was created for a reason. God sees us in His created perfection, and when we worship Him in our actions, we are part of God's perfect plan for this world.

Jr. High /// Spend some time outside and think about the things that you see as beautiful in God's creation around where you are.

Sr. High /// Take some time to write a short paragraph about some beautiful things you see in nature around you. Use your phone to take some pictures of these things as a reminder of God's creation.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Read Genesis 2:16-17.

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

From the very beginning, God has been clear about what He wants from His people and His creation. He put rules in place and has always been insistent that when we obey His commands, our lives will be blessed and we will prosper. But at times, even when the rules are clear, even when we know exactly what to do, we lose sight of God and we give into our flesh (our selfish nature). Even when we try our best, we fail. Don't be afraid of your mistakes, but learn from them, and ask God for forgiveness. If we run to Him, He will, in His perfect love, show us mercy and grace.

Jr. High /// Think about a time you were shown mercy even though you were responsible for a mistake or problem.

Sr. High /// Journal about a time you were shown grace by someone even though you did not deserve it.

REPENTANCE IS NECESSARY

☐ WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Read Genesis 3:1-5.

Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

It really is amazing what empty promises can do to our ability to make decisions. It was no different with Eve as she was promised this amazing ability to know good and evil—to become like God. Even for someone who doesn't know this story, it's obvious where this is going. Eve decided to eat the fruit, but instead of becoming like God, all she received was realization of her nakedness. So often we know what is right, and so often we try our best to throw sin off our backs, but far too often we give in to temptation, receiving only regret and shame. Thankfully, God is always with us, and He is willing to help us renew our lives and find wonderful replacements for the promises of the enemy that were just too good to be true.

Jr. High /// *Make a list of some moments that someone came through with their promises that they made to you.*

Sr. High /// *Make a list of some moments that you were promised something, but it either did not happen or it failed to live up to your expectations.*

☐ THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Read Genesis 3:15.

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

At first glance it seems God is telling off the snake in this verse, but in reality, it is so much more than that. You see when Adam and Eve sinned, they opened a world of hurt for their kids, and their kids' kids, and so on. In their minds, there was nothing they could do to reverse what had happened. Thankfully, God had a plan. It is the first instance when God's gospel plan is laid out for everyone to see. There was coming a Man who would turn sin and death upside down. That Man was Jesus, and if we are intentional about following Jesus' commands, He promises to turn sin's control on our life upside down too.

Jr. High /// *Think about some times you failed. How did you make up for those mistakes, and how have you grown?*

Sr. High /// *Write down some ways in which you have changed in the last five years. Include a couple of physical changes and a couple of spiritual changes.*

REPENTANCE IS NECESSARY

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Read Galatians 5:24.

And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

Paul gave us an incredibly deep look at the way he lived his life and how those belonging to Jesus should. But you may be asking yourself, how in the world do you crucify the flesh. You see, Paul wasn't literally driving nails into his body and hanging from a tree every single day, but instead he was showing the church in Galatia, and everyone reading this verse, that in order to be free from sin, we have to give up some things, and we are definitely going to have to kill the temptations in our lives. Paul was acknowledging that in order to live the kind of life that Jesus expects from us, we need to find repentance and grace every chance that we get so one day we don't find ourselves really dead and on the wrong side of Heaven.

Jr. High /// What are some little things that we can do every day to show that we love God?

Sr. High /// What are some small changes you can make this week to start moving closer to God and closer to a holier lifestyle?

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Read I Corinthians 15:45-47.

And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven.

Just like God was telling the serpent, Adam, and Eve about His plan for Jesus to come and save the world, Paul was again referencing here that Jesus was the Man who came and saved humanity from its sin. Sure, He looked like an ordinary man, but He wasn't earthly and sinful like Adam, and He was actually God all along. So you might be asking yourself why this matters. Well, it's really simple: because Jesus came as a man and died for our sins, being perfect, He effectively redeemed every one of us. We are free from sin! We just must be willing to "die" like Paul did, and if we repent, then Jesus will save us and help us to live beautiful and righteous lives that glorify Him.

Jr. High /// In your journal, write one thing you're happy you're free from and one thing you still need God to help you break free from.

Sr. High /// Write a short letter to God about your thankfulness for His redemption, and list some things you want His help with this week.

NOTES///
