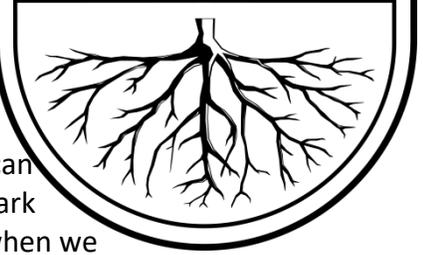




CONTEXT AND CLARIFICATION

Genesis 2:25—3:7

LIFE GROUPS



4. Try to steer your group away from Sunday school answers and into deeper conversation here. The goal is to help the group members grasp areas that they may be diminishing, softening, or adding to God’s word in their own lives and provide space to invite others into that area. One example here could be how it can be difficult to “rejoice in the Lord always” when we are dealing with difficult or dark times. Another example is that it can be hard to accept God’s command to rest when we feel like the weight of the world is on our shoulders. Or, it can be difficult to trust God with our finances by tithing.

7. In 2 Timothy, Paul is giving Timothy guidance for dealing with false teachers. In verses 1-9 of chapter 3, Paul vividly describes these people as being “lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God” and as “always learning but never coming to a knowledge of the truth.” This serves as a powerful reminder of the depravity that exists in a man’s heart when he abandons God’s word and sets himself up as judge over it. By contrast, those who are obedient and receptive to God’s word are characterized by the work of the Spirit.



LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

ICE BREAKER: Do you prefer to do things your own way or ask for feedback?

1. Read Genesis 2:25—3:7. What was your biggest takeaway from Sunday’s sermon?
2. What are some lies about God that cause people to doubt his goodness?
3. What are some commands in scripture that some might excuse as too difficult or unreasonable? Is there a command that you have trouble accepting? Why is it difficult?
4. What is entitlement? Why is it dangerous spiritually?
5. Ever since the fall, we have all seen ourselves as the “center of the universe.” What is one way you can love others more selflessly this week?
6. Read Proverbs 3:5-8 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What is something you can do this week to submit to God’s word?



FURTHER STUDY



Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Matthew 4:1-4

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written,

“Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

2 Timothy 3

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

“According to the serpent, the threat of death was nothing more than a scare tactic to keep Adam and Eve in their place. God was repressive, and obviously jealous that they might ascend too high. What an incredible attack in light of the fact that the thousand ‘goods’ of creation, not to mention the gift of each other and their rulership of the earth as well, came from God!”



- R. Kent Hughes

“The work of bringing all of life into conformity to Christ is never ending. Reading through each book of the Bible, taking its original meaning seriously, looking at other passages that illuminate a specific text, and drawing personal applications is necessary if we are to grow in the likeness of our Savior. Living coram Deo — walking before the face of God in a manner that pleases Him — is impossible without a solid foundation in the Scriptures.”

- Robert Rothwell

“Mercy — unexpected love and generosity — cannot be showered upon us as something owed, because mercy that is owed is not mercy but obligation. It can be given only to those in a desperate situation who cannot help themselves and lack the capability to earn or pay it back. And there is no better way to describe our situation apart from Christ than utterly and hopelessly desperate.

As the sovereign, independent Creator, God is not obligated to save anyone, to show goodness and mercy toward sinners who deserve only condemnation.”

-Unknown Author