

Group Check-In

Follow up

If any specific prayer requests were shared last time, ask about them. If you can't remember, be sure to write them down this time so you can follow up next week!

Share

Leave opportunity for anyone to share any encouragement or discouragement on their heart. Use these as content to bring before God in prayer.

Pray

Take some to pray for the group over anything that came up and then ask for God's blessing on your time together.

Discussion Questions

Introduction

The sermon this week explored God's command not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen 2:16-17) and what that means.

- Are there any insights or questions about the sermon this week that stand out to anyone?

Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil

What does it represent? Why was it wrong to eat of it?

- Begin by comparing Genesis 1:26 and 3:22-24. In one passage, being made in God's likeness is a *good* thing, yet in the next it seems like a *bad* thing.
 - What do you suppose is the difference in these two "likenesses" of God? In other words, what is the limit to our likeness of God as his created beings?
- Pastor Jonathan used the following definition of *knowing good and evil* by Daniel P. Fuller, "...the possession of that maturity which frees one from being dependent upon someone else for guidance on how to act wisely"¹
 - Why is being *free from dependence* considered a problem?
 - What then, is our proper attitude and lifestyle as children of God?

Dependence / Submission

- What does being *dependent* upon God actually look like day-to-day?
- Why do we struggle to depend upon / submit to God? (Or anything!)
- Read Isaiah 55:8-9:
 - This seems obvious, but yet we struggle with it. Even if you intellectually agree with this truth, in what ways do you act as if you know better than God?
 - In what ways do *you* struggle to trust and obey God's ways?

¹ Darrell W. Johnson, *The Glory of Preaching : Participating in God's Transformation of the World* (IVP Academic, 2009), 72.

Sin and the Gospel

We all sin! We rebel against God's ways and choose our way instead—we choose autonomy from God. We know this experientially and through Scripture (Rom 3:23). And just like God told Adam in Gen 2:17, when we rebel against him *we will die* (see also Rom 6:23).

- How do we experience life again according to the gospel? (See Rom 5:19, 6:20-23)
- How do we combat sin in our life?
 - Read Romans 8:13 and note specifically *how* we are to put to death the “deeds of the body”.
 - What does this look like *practically*? How can we know if we're doing it on our own strength versus the power of the Spirit?

Sharing the Gospel Exercise

Following Christ is an invitation to *give up personal autonomy* and *trust God with your life*.

- How would you explain the gospel to someone who doesn't know anything about Christianity by using the phrase above?

Application

In what ways can *you* give up your autonomy and seek to trust God more this coming week?