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True North | Humanity | Genesis 3

Icebreaker:

When you were a kid, what was “off limits” to you?

Read and discuss Genesis 3:

1. What do you think it means to be made in the image of God?
2. How would you define sin?
3. Adam and Eve tried to cover up their shame with fig leaves. How do you generally react when you sin?
4. God made it known that Adam and Eve had done wrong. Why is it healthy to be made aware of your sin or to acknowledge your own mistakes?
5. Adam and Eve have real consequences for their sin. Have you seen tangible consequences for your mistakes?
6. In Genesis 3:21, it says “the Lord God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife, and clothed them.” What does this verse tell us about God?
7. Russian author Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn once said, “The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either—but right through every human heart.” Does that quote resonate in your life?

As your group closes, please keep the following prayer requests in mind:

- > Prayers of healing for Wanda Baker, Elliott Gilmore, and Mona Ruby.

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Leader's Notes

Reminders for your group:

> It's time to host the homeless again with IHN October 30-November 6. Sign up at zpc.org.

Leader's Notes:

Although we learn in Genesis that we are made in God's image, we often fail and sin unlike God. We are human and thus prone to great successes and failures. God can teach us, change us, and help us grow when we admit our sin, desire to be different, and choose to follow Jesus daily.

[Question 1] To be made in the image of God means we are rational (we can reason), we are stewards (of the earth and of money and possessions), and we are creative like God. The primary way we are like God is to be relational, in relationship with God and others.

[Question 2] Sin is a broken relationship with God and others. Sin is distorted desires. Sin is mistrust of God. Adam and Eve showed mistrust of God when they ate the fruit. They did not believe God that he had the best plan for them.

[Question 3] We often react to sin with shame, excuses, and the reasons we failed. Sometimes we blame others. We are called to own our mistakes and move forward.

[Question 4] If we don't acknowledge sin, we won't want to change. Growth happens when you know you need to change. An example might be telling a lie. One lie leads to another lie to cover up the first. One lie makes it easier to lie again later. Getting caught in a lie, or acknowledging a lie, is humbling and pushes us to be truthful.

[Question 5] God told Eve she would have pain in childbirth, and her husband would rule over her. Adam was told he would have “painful toil” in farming and working the ground. Our sins have real consequences too. We can hurt relationships, lose trust, harden our own hearts, and break fellowship with God through sin. Consequences help us to realize our need to deal with sin.

[Question 6] God could have disposed of Adam and Eve and started over. Even though God was probably unhappy with Adam and Eve, he still cared and provided for them. God was a loving God then, and still is today.

[Question 7] This is a personal question to put to your group. A reason why your group members might answer yes would be that we are all sinners, we struggle with sin even as Paul did (see Romans 7:15). Explore that with your group.

Prayer

Pray for one another and for the church family prayer requests.