

## REDEMPTION (GENESIS 12:1-3)

From the moment we pushed God out of our life, he began to pursue us, holding out the promise of redemption, reconciliation and restoration.

“God chose not to abandon or destroy his creation, but to redeem it. And he chose to do so within history through persons and events that run from the call of Abraham to the return of Christ (Christopher Wright).”

In Genesis 12, God begins to answer the question, “How can we fix what is broken in us?” or better yet, “How will he fix what is broken in us?”

*GENESIS 12:1 The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. <sup>2</sup> “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”*

1. Paul tells us that God preached the gospel in advance to Abraham. Where do you see the gospel in these verses?
2. We have a two fold responsibility in light of God’s blessing. We are to revel in and enjoy God’s blessing; and we are to extend those blessings to others.
  - a. How should we revel in and enjoy the blessings of God’s grace?
  - b. How do we extend those blessings to others?
  - c. What happens when we choose to revel in God’s blessing without extending it to others?
  - d. What happens when we choose to extend God’s blessing to others without enjoying them ourselves?



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017

## 360 DISCUSSION GUIDE

### THE STORY CONTINUES

SELECTED PASSAGES FROM GENESIS 1-12

My grandfather was a fantastic story teller. When we were growing up, we would spend a couple of weeks with our grandparents every summer. Grandad would set up the pop up camper in the backyard. During the day we’d fashion toys out of the wood from the scrap pile and create stories of our own. At night we would settle into the pop-up camper and grandad would weave the most wonderful tales. I am pretty sure he was making them up as he went. I’ve never heard anything like them.

My kids grew up with movies like, “The Never Ending Story” and the “Princess Bride,” which are actually stories about stories. April and I love quoting lines from these movies. There are very few life situations that cannot be matched with an appropriate quote from “Princess Bride.”

This past summer Ryan and I spent a few days fly fishing in Colorado. As we drove cross country, paused along the river, and kicked back in camp, we read passages from “The Push” by Tommy Caldwell. It is a riveting account of the first free ascent of the Dawn Wall of El Capitan in the Yosemite Valley. Tommy weaves his entire life story into the dramatic moment when he pushed his broken body to the summit of El Capitan. The book was an unexpected pleasure. Tommy is a first rate story teller.

We love some stories because they are true. We love other stories because we wish they were true. The Bible is both. It is a story that is true in every sense of the word. At the same time, it is a story that is too good to be true. It is the Story of a God who invades time and space to redeem and restore everything we lost in the fall.

It is a story we all should know, because it is the story we are all in. It is the one story that answers the questions we are all asking. Who are we? Why are we here? What went wrong? How can we fix it? What is our ultimate hope?

### **CREATION (GENESIS 1:1-3; 26-28; 31)**

The pattern of Genesis 1 is that God creates space and then he fills it. On days 1-3 he takes the raw material of creation and fashions livable spaces. On days 5-6 he fills those spaces. The dramatic conclusion of the creation story is the creation of man. Turns out God has created a space for us to know, love and serve him. The creation story offers God's dramatic answer to the questions of who we are and why we are here.

*GENESIS 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

*<sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*

*<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."*

*<sup>27</sup> So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*

*<sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."*

*<sup>31</sup> God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.*

1. According to Genesis 1, who are we?
2. What privileges did Adam and Eve enjoy in the garden?
3. According to the Creation Story, "Why are we here?"
4. What responsibilities were Adam and Eve given in the garden?
5. What are the privileges and responsibilities we have been given through the gospel?

### **THE FALL (GENESIS 3:1-6)**

While we were created to live and thrive under God's gracious rule, we have all rejected God's gracious rule in order to establish our own. Our rejection of God spills over into every area of our lives and all of creation. Genesis 3 answers the question, "What is wrong?"

*GENESIS 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"*

*<sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' "*

*<sup>4</sup> "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."*

*<sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.*

1. Why do you think God gives us boundaries?
2. How does Satan challenge those boundaries?
3. What happens when we reserve the right to decide what is right and wrong for us rather than looking to God?
4. What are some areas where we tend to ignore God's boundaries?
5. Why are we better off accepting his boundaries than creating our own?