

# Discipleship Groups

Reaching · Growing · Sending

Week of January 10, 2016

In His Presence: Adam & Eve

Text: Genesis 2-3

## Heartbeat

Over the next 6 weeks we are going to look at God's presence in Scripture – how He interacted with individuals throughout history and what that means for how He interacts with you and me today. We will start with God's presence in the beginning of creation with Adam and Eve and track His presence through Abraham, Moses, David, Jesus, and ultimately at Pentecost with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. This series will be great for those ready to dive in a little deeper spiritually.

## Get to Know Me [5-10 Minutes]

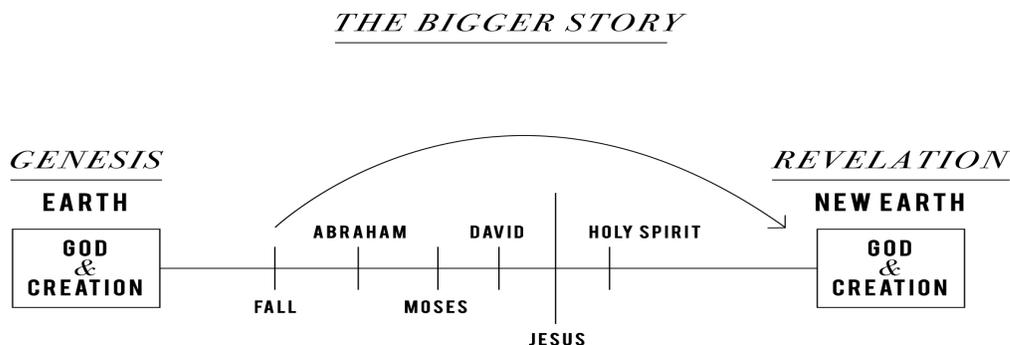
- If the daytime temperature had to be exactly the same every day of the year, what would you want the temperature to be?

## Warm-Up [15 Minutes]

- Share one or two highlights from the holidays that were special to you.
- What is one thing you are looking forward to in this New Year?

## Exploration [20-30 Minutes]

To set the table, this graphic takes a 30,000-foot view of God's redemptive plan from Genesis to Revelation. We will look at God's presence in these six defining moments in the biblical record. [Refer to the sermon on January 10 for more clarification here if you need it.]



- What does it mean when we say God is “*omnipresent*”?  
God does not have size or special dimensions and is present at every point of space with his whole being, yet God acts differently in different places. (Wayne Grudem)

Grudem, author of *Systematic Theology*, says that God is present in at least three ways in scripture. - present to punish, present to sustain, and present to bless. The most common form of God's presence in scripture is to bless his people.

- Look up these examples of ways God blesses with His presence.
  - 2 Corinthians 3:17
  - Romans 8:9-11
- Here is a quick overview to see the presence of God with Adam and Eve in the garden.
  - Gen 1 - God creates the heavens, earth, and man
  - Gen 2 - Adam and Eve are naked and not ashamed (sinless)
  - Gen 3 - Adam and Eve sin, which separates them from God

**Read Genesis 2** [Have everyone read quietly and quickly through this chapter]

- What do you see in this chapter about what all God creates? [trees pleasant to the eye and for food, animals, man]
- Why do you think God determined it was not good for man to be alone? [we are created for relationship, "let us make man in our image"]

**Now Read Genesis 3** [Have everyone read quietly and quickly through this chapter]

- What happened when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit? [they knew they were naked, covered themselves, hid from God]
- Why do you think they hid from God's presence?
- What does Romans 6:23 tell us about sin's affect on our lives? What hope do we find in this verse?

## **Application [20 Minutes]**

Discuss the following questions as time allows or design your own questions.

- Take a few minutes to discuss what life must have been like with God's presence in the garden before the fall into sin. What would it be like to have no shame or fear today?
- Discuss a time you have felt the presence of God in a tangible way. What was it like? Where were you? How did this experience come about?
- Have you ever ran from or hid from God? If so, why did you run? How did you find your way back?

## **Ministry Time [15 Minutes]**

Take the remainder of the evening to experience the presence of God through worship. Plan to play some current worship music (Pandora, *Hands to the Sky* worship album or live worship if you have that available in your group). Ask God to show up and reveal His presence to everyone there. Linger in the presence of God and listen for Him to speak to you. If anyone is carrying shame or guilt, encourage them to release that to God. Does anyone in your group need to respond to the gospel? Ask for feedback at the end.