

Ephesians 2:8-10, Genesis 3:1-13
Restoring beauty from Brokenness: CAP Sunday

Warm Up

Has anyone had a situation or circumstance you felt was broken beyond repair? Perhaps a relationship, a friendship or even an object such as a beloved car! Has anyone had the awful experience of losing a home to fire or being burgled and having sentimental items stolen? How did it make you feel? How did it affect you? Did you believe repair or restoration could happen? Who helped you in your time of need?

Background and context

Genesis 3: this is where it all goes wrong for humanity. The story reveals a great deal about human nature and what often leads to our downfall. Succumbing to temptation, falling victim to deceit and lies, poor choices, disobedience to instructions. When we think about it we have all been victims of one of these at sometime or another. None of us are exempt, any one of us could find ourselves homeless, in debt or in poverty through circumstance or one poor choice.

Ephesians 2:8-10: God is able to rescue and restore us, not through our own efforts but by his love. He can restore us and give us back our purpose, which is to do good works.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

READ Genesis 3:1-13 and Ephesians 2:8-10. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. It is very easy, for those who are not in debt, to become judgemental and look down on those struggling with debt. Why is this?
2. How might the story of the fall of humanity help us understand why there is debt and poverty in our world? (cf: **Genesis 3: 1, 4-5,6, 12, 13**)
3. What did the serpent try to make Adam and Eve question?
4. How might greed, dishonesty or exploitation contribute to debt and poverty?
5. Why is it wrong to assume that everyone who is poor is responsible for their situation?
6. What feelings might someone experience when struggling with debt?
7. How can poverty affect a person's confidence and relationships?
8. **Read Ephesians 2:8-10.** What does it mean to be saved by grace?
9. How might knowing that God values us, change the way we respond to financial hardships?
10. What does God restore us to, and for what purpose?

Discipleship and Application

11. What good works might God be calling Christians to do for people living in poverty?
12. How can a church help people who are struggling with debt while preserving their dignity?
13. **Reflection.** What is God calling **YOU** to do to support CAP or those in poverty?

Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.

Fancy a different approach to Bible study?

Try these ways of exploring a passage.

S.O.A.P.

S. Scripture

Read and/or write out the verse or passage.

O. Observe

What do you notice about the passage? Write notes down.

A. Apply

What do I need to do in my life to apply the teaching?

P. Pray

Pray about the reading. Ask God to help you apply it to your life.

Or this way....

What does the passage teach about God or Jesus?

What does it teach about humans? (Therefore me)

How do I apply in my life what I have learned today?

How about this way?

The 6 Ps

Position yourself to hear from God.

Pore over the passage and paraphrase it

Pull out the principles and teachings

Pose questions

Plan obedience

Pray about your study

Just one more...

Apple



Atttributes of God/Jesus

Promises of God

Pinciples to live by

Lessons to be learned

Examples to follow

In this method look for one or more of the five themes. They may not all be there.

If your group is creative or artistic... why not do an evening of Bible journalling. Create a piece of art or poetry based on a bible passage or verse.