

Back To The Garden – Trust The Story

Lesson 1

Preface

- Think about your favorite novel or story. If you were to skip the beginning of the story where we meet the main characters and learn about the setting, how might that impact the way you read the story later on? What would be difficult? How might that affect your understanding?

Part 1

- As you listened to the conversation about the opening chapters of Genesis, was there anything that stood out to you or that you thought was important?
- Imagine being a part of an ancient culture where you believe the world was formed from conflict between the gods or out of chaos somehow. How do you think it would have impacted you when you learned about a God who created everything with intention and purpose and value?
- Why do you think God chose to teach us about rest at the very beginning of the creation story? How should that impact the way we view our own lives and our own work?
- What's the hardest part about trusting God for our worth and value? Do you feel like the world around us works with us in that endeavor or do you feel like it makes it harder?

Part 2

- Read Gen 2:4-17, what stood out to you?
- The garden of Eden is a description of plenty and abundance. Why do you think Adam and Eve became quickly preoccupied with the one thing they didn't have? How do you see this same struggle in your world today?
- If you were to be really honest about how you actually live your life, which of the following is easier for you to trust: That you are enough or that you have enough?
- Why do you think God chose to teach us about a world where He provides more than enough at the very beginning of the scriptures? How should this shape the way we see our world?

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Part 3

- Learn The Story: There are two ways to think of learning the story. The first is part of what we did here today. It's reading the scriptures and coming to understand the story that God is telling in the opening chapters of Genesis. The second is taking that understanding and identifying the places in our lives where this still is our lesson to learn.
 - What are the places in your life where you feel like you have learned God's story of enoughness?
 - What are the places in your life that are still your opportunity to learn God's story of enoughness?
- Trust the Story: We will all find ourselves in moments where despite what we have learned, we still struggle to trust the story. That doesn't make us weak. It makes us human, sons of Adam and daughters of Eve. After all, it's one thing to know something. It's another thing to trust what you know.
 - What helps you trust God's story of enoughness in your life? Is it past experiences? Is it hard lessons learned? Is it hope? Is it a passage or a moment from scripture? Share with the group.
 - Describe a moment in your life where it was hard to trust the story? Sometimes being honest about those things helps us to not be caught off guard when they show up at our door. It's also nice to know that we aren't alone.
 - How can we, as a group, help one another to trust the story? Also, what's not particularly helpful that we should identify?
- Live the Story: It's important that we don't see our lives as an opportunity to "live up to" God's story of enoughness, but rather "to live out" God's story of enoughness. It's a gift to us and the world around us that we get to give away. In a world where people struggle with whether they are enough or whether they lack something or have enough, we each get to be a powerful message that God loves them, that He is more than enough, and that He created them with worth and value simply because He wanted to.
 - When you think about your life and the spaces and places in which you spend your time, where do you see the most opportunity for others to experience God's story of enoughness? What is one step you can take to be a part of living out God's story in that place?
 - Who is one person that you can begin praying for? If it's appropriate, take a moment to pray for the people identified together as a group.