

START HERE · GOD GIVES



ANNOUNCEMENTS: Leader, please make these available to your group.

WOMENS CHRISTMAS EVENT

This is a great opportunity to invite someone you know from work, your neighborhood, or family member to attend an elegant evening with a tremendous talent. If you haven't heard Anna Golden please look her up on Spotify. This concert event begins with assorted appetizers and dessert. Women's Ministry is going all out to create a beautiful space to socialize and celebrate the greatest gift of the season. Jesus. ADORE HIM begins at 6pm and tickets cost \$25. And MEN - we need help with volunteers. You'll find a sign up button on the same page.





Week 15 | The Spiritual Realm | Genesis 3:1

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE ISN'T A PLAYGROUND IT'S A BATTLEGROUND

A few years ago, there was a conference held at the United Nations. To welcome delegates from the many countries, they stretched a banner across the front of the UN building that said "Welcome" in different languages. But there was a tiny mistake in one language. The translators mistyped one letter, so instead of saying, "Welcome," it said "Circumcision." Undoubtedly, the people who spoke that language were hesitant to enter, considering the pain that was to follow!

I believe that in our messaging of the gospel, we sometimes over-focus on the benefits of the invitation at the expense of relating the cost. By that I mean, that while the Christian life is amazing, as we are welcomed into the family of God, it simultaneously means that we are entering into a life of real spiritual warfare. Unfortunately, many Christians attempt to live their lives without regard to this spiritual reality and pay a price for it daily, while God has given us all the tools we need to be victorious.

Leaders: Take your group through each section: Pray, Reflect, and Reach. Keep in mind the time allowances. In the Reflect section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.



PRAY (10 min)

As a Life Group, take time to consider the times when God has given you the victory in a spiritual battle. Be specific about what He did.



REFLECT (25 min)

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

- 1. Do you believe that the conflict that exists in the spiritual realm manifests itself in the physical realm? If you do, what are some of the implications of this reality for the Christian? What has it looked like in your life? Why is it an important consideration for the person sincerely seeking to follow Jesus?**

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- 2. In the spiritual realm, the two sides in the conflict are not equal opposites. The Triune God, the uncreated Creator, rules supremely.**

What hope does this provide for you as a Christian? Be specific about how this truth affects you. How can you encourage others?

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 8:38-39

3. Christians may experience setbacks in spiritual progress because they are engaged in activities that are gateways to demonic influence.

What would you say those gateway activities are, and how can you encourage one another to avoid them?

4. Pastor Derek mentioned seven tools that you can use daily to be victorious in the spiritual battle.

Which tools stood out to you and why? How do you plan on practically implementing these tools in your life?

A BIBLE THAT IS FALLING APART IS USUALLY OWNED BY SOMEONE WHO ISN'T.



WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE

1 Peter 5:8-9

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith.



REACH (5 min)

Considering what God revealed to you this week, determine to use the spiritual tools that God has provided so that you can be victorious in the spiritual battle. Then, focus on at least one of these tools and anticipate that God will bring you the victory.

Next week we will be anxiously waiting to hear about how God supplied a specific spiritual victory in your life.