

LIFE Group Questions for the week of March 18, 2018

Recap: Last week we spent time in the first chapter of Genesis where we explored how God used his power when He created the universe. We explored the specific words God used to create. When God created the universe he primarily used the Jussive Mood. We looked at how Jussive Power is Creative Power- "Let there Be..." This Creative Power that God unleashed into all of creation, not only caused things to exist that didn't exist, but caused these things to flourish. We discussed that the response to this God is to worship Him and follow His example in the way we use the creative power He has entrusted to us as stewards. We considered how we might use creative power to cause flourishing in our families, teams, organizations, neighborhoods and communities.

Opening Questions:

Have everyone in the group go around the room and share a story from their childhood about a time they disobeyed their parents and the consequences they experienced as a result. Can you remember what compelled you to disobey your parents at the time?

What would you tell your younger self if you could go back in time?

Read Genesis 2:15-17 & 3:1-7... and answer the following questions...

1. God invited Adam & Eve to eat from any tree in the garden except one (Genesis 1:29; 2:15-17). They seemed to have had it all yet they took the one thing they couldn't have. What does this reveal about our human nature?

2. Notice the serpent's use of a question rather than a statement (Gen 3:1). What questions does the serpent seem to raise about God according to verse 1? How did this strategy subversively undermine Adam and Eve's understanding of God?

3. When was the last time you questioned God's goodness and/or honesty? What effect did this have on your ability to trust Him? To worship Him?

4. As image-bearers we have been entrusted to reflect God in the way we relate to creation. One of the ways we reflect God's image is through the expression of our Creative Power. How is Adam and Eve's rebellion an example of misplaced creativity?

Explanation: Rather than exploring all the *good* and limitless things God has afforded us, we are drawn to evil and limiting things that prevent us from being who He truly desires us to be. The problem with sin is that it makes us less human! Remember Jesus was fully God and fully human. He did not just reveal who God is to us, but revealed to us what it means to be human. Notice how Jesus models for us the true use of power (eg.s: Mark 10:41-45; Phil 2:1-11).

5. In what ways have you misplaced your creative power? What idols have been created in your life as a result?

6. What might need to shift/change in your life to use your creative power to cause flourishing in the lives of those around you? Examples...

- Spending less time killing yourself at work so you can have more money to buy stuff that won't satisfy you long term.
- Being more intentional about using the power and influence God has given you to create environments at home and work where people are encouraged and empowered.
- Disconnecting from your electronic devices for set time during the day to for prayer, reflection and worship.
- Focusing on removing obstacles for the people you work with rather than creating them.
- Set aside intentional time to bless the people in your life by writing them a hand written note (Note: For those of you born after 1990 these are pieces of paper we use to fill with ink expressing our appreciation for other)

7. How can you use this group to help you in these areas?