

POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND

1. There is a moment of prayer and confession at the end of the group. It will be helpful to have a worship song ready to play during that moment. Also, gather communion elements if this is something you want to do in your small group together.
2. The main topics of the small group discussion will be sin and confession. These are big topics, and people will have wildly different ideas about sin and confession. Have a posture of curiosity and be ready to ask people to “tell you more” without judgment.
3. We must remember that our story begins in Genesis 1 and not Genesis 3. God has called us good, and God wants to rescue us from sin. If we start our story with sin and not the goodness of creation, we will risk getting the Gospel off on the wrong foot. In the grand sweep of the Christian tradition, sin doesn't get the first word about you. The first word is good, and the last word is glory. The middle word is sin, and that dimension of our life is being redeemed.
4. If time allows, you may want to have the group read Genesis 3:1-7 and Genesis 11:1-4. These passages depict sin on a personal level and communal level, respectively.
5. Your group time will end with an invitation to share a confession. Confession is a very vulnerable experience. It is ok if small group members do not want to share their confessions out loud. As the leader, if you feel compelled to confess, please be ready to share first.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND QUOTES

1. Where do you see God at work in your life right now?
2. What next steps do you feel called to take in your faith journey?
3. Have you considered getting baptized? communitychristian.org/baptism/
4. Who have you been able to B.L.E.S.S.?

“Shalom is what we long for. It's a state of affairs that inspires joyful wonder as its Creator and Savior opens doors and welcomes the creatures in whom he delights. Shalom, in other words, is the way things ought to be.”
– Cornelius Plantinga

“Adam and Eve were driven from the Garden because of the kind of knowledge they reached for—a knowledge that distrusted and excluded God. Their drive to know arose not from love but from curiosity and control, from the desire to possess powers belonging to God alone. They failed to honor the fact that God knew them first, knew them in their limits as well as their potentials. In their refusal to know as they were known, they reached for a kind of knowledge that always leads to death.” – Parker Palmer

“God's unease at the building project focuses on its constituting a kind of assertion of independence, opening up the possibility of further acts of independence. The issues again parallel those [of Adam and Eve], but this story considers them at the level of a people, not just an individual or married couple.” - John Goldingay, *Genesis for Everyone*