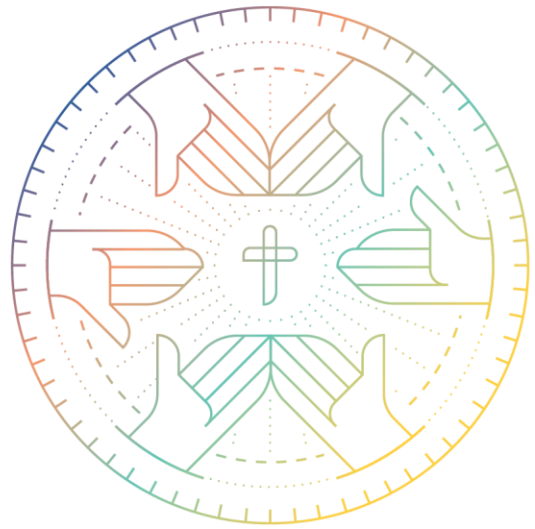


Group Life.

W E A R E B E T T E R T O G E T H E R



MEETING AGENDA

WELCOME (10 MINUTES)

This week our Advent series is titled *The Promise*. We will spend time in the Old Testament looking at how God was faithful to His promise by bringing salvation into the world through Jesus's birth, death, and resurrection. This week we will begin looking at God's promise through the story of Adam and Eve. We will see how through the Fall of man, God makes a promise of a coming savior.

Don't forget to take attendance via the attendance reminder email.

ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

What is a promise? When someone makes a promise, what do they need to do to make you believe it?

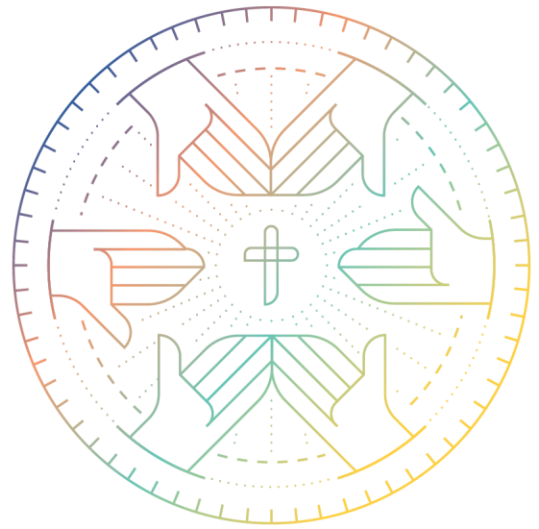
INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

Anchor Verse: *Genesis 3:1-15*

This week we will begin looking at God's promise through the story of Adam and Eve. We will see how through the Fall of man God makes a promise of a coming savior.

Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)

1. Read 2 Corinthians 11:3, Revelation 12:9, John 8:44, Matthew 4:1-11, Galatians 4:8 and 1 John 3:8. The devil has been sinning from the beginning, he is the father of lies, a thief, a destroyer and a murderer. Can you think of a few ways we might be led astray in our relationship with Jesus by the enemy?

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Discernment is a term that we sometimes associate with our relationship with the Lord or with Godly wisdom. This is a tool that we can utilize by the power of the Holy Spirit within us (1 John 4:4). Consider how important it is to be aware of computer hackers or identity theft and ways to avoid being deceived in this way. In a similar fashion, the Holy Spirit can open our eyes to the enemy and his tactics.]

2. Read Matthew 4:1-11, Galatians 4:8 and 1 John 3:8. How does the devil take our eyes off the Lord Jesus, His Word and His promises in our everyday routines? What does God's Word instruct us to do to resist the enemy?

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[As a group share their thoughts on how we can more effectively spot the enemy's temptations and focus instead on the light of the Gospel that displays the glory of Christ (2 Corinthians 4:4).]

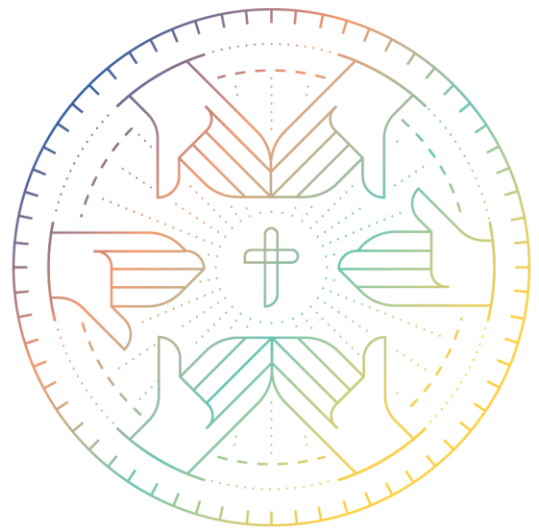
3. Read Matthew 18:21-22 and 1 Peter 4:8. The third thing that love does in 1 Corinthians 13:7 is hope. To hope means to give others room to grow and forgive. What role does forgiveness play in true authentic love?

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Beata Souders of positive psychology.com states, "Conflict and social harm can take a considerable toll on our psychological and physical well-being, and some argue that happiness depends to a large extent on how we respond to and recover from these difficult and painful experiences. Forgiveness looks different when we forgive a stranger versus a loved one and depends on the relationship. Many researchers and clinicians claim that forgiveness is a cornerstone of a successful marriage (e.g., Worthington, 1994)." As followers of Christ forgiveness is essential and is the foundation that our relationship with God is built upon. As such, it should be practiced in all of the relationships around us.]

Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



APPLICATION (25 MINUTES)

1. **Read Genesis 3:1-15, 21. The ways in which God always keeps His promises to us include rescuing us, redeeming us, and crushing the enemy, among many others. What does it mean to stand on the promises of God each day?**

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Christmas is the celebration of a promise fulfilled by God. When we trust in God's faithfulness to His Word and His power in defeating the enemy, He draws us closer to Jesus. Every Christmas, He gives us the privilege to experience His steadfast, unconditional, and redemptive love (Isaiah 43:1-4). Ask group members to share a specific promise of God that means the most to them. How can we keep our focus on Jesus and that He always keeps His promises, especially as we walk through this Advent season?]

2. **Read Deuteronomy 31:8 and Isaiah 54:10. As we spend time looking at the promise of God, through Jesus Christ, how does this help you to put your trust in Him this week?**

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[The main reason we should trust God is that He is worthy of our trust. Unlike men, He never lies and never fails to fulfill His promises. "God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?" (Numbers 23:19; Psalm 89:34). Unlike men, He has the power to bring to pass what He plans and purposes to do. Isaiah 14:24 tells us, "The LORD Almighty has sworn, 'Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will stand.'" Furthermore, His plans are perfect, holy, and righteous, and He works all things together for good for those who love Him and are called according to His holy purpose (Romans 8:28). If we endeavor to know God through His Word, we will see that He is worthy of our trust, and our trust in Him will grow daily. To know Him is to trust Him.]

PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for all of Your promises. As we have been looking at promises made in Genesis, we know that You are a God who always keeps promises. We are so grateful to be the children of such a loving and merciful God. As we leave our small group, we ask that You be with all of through the week. In Jesus name, Amen.