**Never Lost**

**Beauty from Ashes- Week #1**

**Small Group Notes**

**March 11 and 14, 2021**

**Introduction:**

**Have you ever had to confront someone at work or in a relationship about something wrong they did? How did you approach the subject? Was it something they had immediately done or was it something that had been brewing? Was their response expected or did it take you by surprise? What was the result?**

**Why do people generally not take responsibility for their actions?**

We are beginning a new series leading into Easter called Never Lost. The purpose of this series is to see throughout Scripture glimpses of the cross, even in some of the worst or least likely moments in human history recorded in Scripture. In today’s discussion, we are at the beginning of time with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Today we are going to see not only the sin that caused the fall of all humanity, but the restoration that God provides that shows how he wants to make beauty from ashes.

**Discuss:**

1. Read Genesis 3:1-5

* The enemy put a question mark where the King put a period.
* We need to make sure we know what the King actually says.

Explain: The Bible began with God speaking all things into existence—including the serpent. And now the serpent that was created by the word of God has questioned the authority of the One whose word created him! With one subtle question, “Did God really say?,” He usurped the clearly communicated word of God. The serpent knew that if Eve doubted the source of the command, she would disregard the command itself.

Ask:

**Compare Genesis 2:16-17 with this passage. What did God really say? What did the serpent change about God’s statement?**

**What are life situations that we see that people want to try and change or question God’s Word?**

**Why are times that you see people can doubt God’s Word instead of trust it?**

2. Read Genesis 3:6-13

* Sin always over promises and under delivers.
* We try to cover our sin with inadequate means.
* It is always somebody else who dropped the cake.
* The King seeks.

Explain: People still blame their sins on Satan, their environment, parents, friends, or someone or something else. While temptation comes to us from many sources, we alone decide to disobey God; thus, we are accountable for our sins (see Rom. 2:3-11; 14:12; James 1: 12-18;1 Pet. 4:5).

Ask:

**What were Adam’s and Eve’s explanations for their disobedience? Share a time when you have said something similar before as the blame for sin (someone else dropping the cake).**

**Why do people often cast blame on someone or something when confronted about their wrongdoing?**

**What does seeing our sin as “ours” help us to understand about responsibility?**

3. Read Genesis 3:14-24

* The King disciplines.
* The King covers.

Explain: God punished the serpent, the woman, and the man, drastically changing their lives (and thus also the lives of their descendants) forever. Their punishment included death. Adam and Eve did not voluntarily leave in penance for their sin, God sent them away. Life would be difficult. Their sin had driven a wedge between themselves and God. Their previous life was forever gone. They had sinned and thus had to live with the consequences. Sin entered into the world and the consequence of sin entered as well: death.

**What consequences did Adam and Eve face as a result of their sin? How have you personally experienced the effects of these curses even today?**

**Read Colossians 2:13-15. What hope for the remedy of sin?**

**How can we encourage one another this week in our battle with sin and with remembering our true identity?**