

Genesis—Series Overview

Embarrassing Ancestors and Our Glorious Hope

The book of Genesis is all about God making an extravagantly gorgeous Creation to declare His glory and the horrifying result of our ancestors' rebellion against His kingly rule. It was written to remind us of our good God's promise to undo all the terror that our treason has wrought. It shows us our ancestors' faltering walk of faith and His faithful care for them, all the while paving the way for the coming King who would deliver us from ourselves and all who oppose our good God. The New Heavens and Earth will perfectly declare His praise.

APPLYING GOD'S WORD

Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you:

Repent! As we better understand the origin of our race's rebellion against God, we are better able to own our own guilt and turn from continuing in active treason. So this week consider what are specific ways you deny God's truth. Turn from that to obedience and trust in Him.

Delight in His Grace! The lie is always a libel of God. We question His goodness, but He shows us over and over again that He is good and trust-worthy. So believe that He is good and rejoice! Celebrate His mercy! Dance in light of His mercy! Sing and praise His name!

Ezra-Nehemiah—Series Overview

A Community Restored for Worship

The book of Ezra-Nehemiah was written to encourage God's people returning after exile to believe the covenant promises and restore the temple in Jerusalem. God's people were being restored in the place of promise as a worshipping community. The restoration of purpose was far greater than their real estate. The place always has to do with what God promised would happen there.

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional
First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren
January 20th, 2019

Morning Service:

Genesis 3: 1 – 24

The Gospel According to Adam and Eve

1. Eve & Adam's Introduction to the Gospel Is by Being Caught.
2. Eve & Adam's Hope Is Connected to Their Children.
3. How Do We Share Eve & Adam's Hope?

Eve and Adam received wonderful news even in the midst of great rebuke. It was the kind of good news that can change everything, that *does* change everything. They could look forward to not just being restored to the garden, but an even better temple-garden with God forever. From their seed came the deliverer who conquered death itself and will restore all Creation to its purpose as the receptacle of God's eternal praise.

Evening Service:

Nehemiah 9: 1 – 38

Collective Confession of God's People

1. We Have Nothing to Offer But Fithly Rags (1-4).
2. We Approach God Based on His Covenant Faithfulness (5-37).
3. Confession Affects the Whole Community (38).

As the gospel is properly understood according to God's Word it leads us to admit what we have done wrong and turn from our disobedience to God's loving care. Inherent in all sin is a traitorous idolatry that seeks security from other sources apart from God. Revival brings us to recognize that our only hope is found in God Himself. We see this most clearly in Christ's sacrifice and there find freedom to confess our sins together.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

How did our first parents understand the gospel of Jesus Christ? While they didn't know it by that name, we clearly see them demonstrating faith in God's promise to deliver them from the dying death they had gotten themselves into by rebelling against God. How can we learn from them more about Jesus? Let's explore that this week!

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Ask Christ to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday AM

READ **Genesis 3:1-24; Romans 8:13-25** DISCUSS How does Creation suffer as a result of our rebellion? What is Creation's hope? PRAY for God to empower us to give Christ glory in Creation around us. Ask Him to enable us to live by faith in Christ in our environment.

Sunday PM

READ today's passage: **Nehemiah 9:1-38**. What is the role of community in confession and repentance? Why is it necessary? PRAISE God for His mercy. REPENT of ways we ignore Him.

Monday

READ **Genesis 3:1-24; Romans 5:6-17**. DISCUSS, How are all people in Adam? What entered the world through him? What are the affects of our dying death? How are we to be in Christ? How does life in Christ contrast with death? Even in Christ how does death continue to affect us? PRAY for wisdom to understand God's ways. EXTEND Christ's grace lavished upon us to someone you know today.

Tuesday

READ **Genesis 3:1-24; Matthew 11:2-5**. Who was the "Expected One" that John is talking about? How had Adam and Eve expected Him? MEDITATE on this—God has fulfilled His promise to crush Satan! PRAY, "Father God, we praise You as the Lord of all

Creation! Jesus, thank You for Your victory. Holy Spirit, enable us to live out these truths."

Wednesday

Read **Genesis 3:1-4; First Corinthians 15:20-50**. DISCUSS: How is God redeeming us? How does Christ replace Adam for those trusting in God's provision? REJOICE if you have been adopted through Christ's sacrifice. PRAY, "Lord, thank You for the fullness of Your love for us. We praise You for doing what only You could do in making us Your people. Help us proclaim and live out the reality of Your grace together."

Thursday

READ **Genesis 3:14-21; Hebrews 2:5-18**. Christ has delivered us from the dying death we deserve. REJOICE in the grace of God. PRAY, "Jesus, You came just as You promised. You delivered us from the dying death we deserve. Thank You for adopting us and making us your brothers and sisters. Amen."

Friday

READ **Genesis 3:1-24; Colossians 3:1-4**. DISCUSS: What have you been learning this week? How does understanding how we got into this mess help us better understand what we have in Christ? REJOICE for Christ has died 'once for all' obtaining for us eternal life! PRAY for your neighbors who are deceived and unable to even see their own sin for what it really is. Pray for their repentance. Pray that God will use you to bring them into His kingdom to the honor and praise of His name.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow. READ **Genesis 1-4**. Do what you can today to free you up tomorrow to concentrate on worshipping Christ with His people. INVITE someone you know to join you for the worship service tomorrow. Pray for Christ's love to be more and more manifested in the Woodstock area. Pray that He will use us to extend His grace as we celebrate it together.