

Discovering God: Part 1- Introductions
Adam and Eve (Gen 1-3)

I. ME

- A. Welcome/Online/So What About
- B. Crosscreek- Vision/Mission
- C. Not just change people's minds about church but change people's minds about God.
 - 1. God is FOR you
 - 2. Two reactions...
 - a. **Religious**- No, I'm for God. I was created to worship and obey God.
 - b. **Regular**- How is he FOR us?
 - c. Terrible things happen all over the world
 - d. Your life is falling apart and terrible things beyond your control have happened to you or those you care about.

II. WE

- A. Common thinking (not always put into words)...
 - 1. If there is a God, he's either uninterested or angry at me.
 - 2. He's judgmental, silent, distant, and absent when I need him.
 - 3. He only shows up when I do something that doesn't fit within his narrow rules in order to punish or judge me or make me feel guilty.
 - 4. Not FOR me.
 - 5. **What we think we know about God keeps us from discovering God.**

B. The problem... we don't really know WHO GOD IS.

- 1. We're pretty sure someone or something exists but if it or he does how could we ever really know what he is like?
- 2. We know what we've been told, what we feel, but who is God really?

C. Not new problem...

D. In fact it's the exact same question the ancient Israelites asked when they escaped Egypt.

- 1. After 400 yrs steeped in Egyptian culture and mythology they saw amazing things done by this unknown God.
- 2. And now they need to know who this God that rescued them is...

E. And so God had Moses write what we call the book of Genesis.

- 1. 1st 3 chapters talk about creation and the first people.
- 2. But the focus isn't what many make it out to be, the main point isn't **how** God created... but **who** God is.

3. **God wants us to know who he is.**

F. So as God introduces himself to this new nation... what is the first thing he wants them to know about him?

II. GOD

A. Genesis 1:1

1. God created out nothing everything.
2. But the question is... why?
3. Why did God create at all?
4. Did need to... wanted to
5. B/c if he didn't you wouldn't be here.
6. **God created you because he wanted to.**
7. But there's more
8. Throughout this account there is a repeated phrase.

B. 1:3-4 (highlight "was good")

1. Makes land, trees and plants, sun and moon and star, animals... says they are all good.
2. Was he checking his work? Was he reassuring himself?
3. Who are they good for? He's God, he doesn't need them... He fully existed before them.

C. V. 26

1. THEN
2. When everything was "good"... THEN He created humans.
3. It was good for US.
4. **The universe was created good for us.**
5. Every sunset, forest, ocean discovery... for us to survive, thrive, and enjoy.
6. There doesn't need to be beauty or a capacity to enjoy it... but God created it for us b/c he wanted to.
7. But there's more.

D. V. 27-29

1. Made everything perfect and then just gave it to us.
2. Why did he create us? B/c he wanted to.
3. Why did he give us the good creation?
4. What did we do to deserve it... nothing. We had just been created.
5. He gave it to us because he wanted to
6. **God loves to give.**
7. He didn't stop there.

E. 2:15

1. **God gave us purpose**

F. 2:18

1. **God gave us companionship... the ability to love**

- G. He made everything and gave it to us, gave us purpose, and the ability to love... why?
1. B/c he wanted to.
 2. **God has been for us from the beginning of time.**
 3. He gave us all we needed and more... and only one rule.

H. 2:16-17

1. Millions of "yeses" and one "no."
2. **God's gifts are immeasurable and his requirements are minimal.**
3. **Matthew 11:28-30**
4. Often feels the other way around, why is that? Where does that come from?

- I. And for who knows how long... Adam and Eve trusted God and enjoyed everything he had given them.
1. Perfect world/ perfect relationship with each other, perfect relationship with God...
 2. But then everything changed.
 3. Everything except God.
- D. For some reason Adam and Eve were not content with all the gifts God had given them.
1. They chose to eat from the one NO tree.
 2. Decided they knew what was best. Decided God couldn't be trusted.
 3. And b/c of that decision sin entered the world.

- E. We don't understand the gravity, the severity of this.
1. A world with sin is all we know... like fish who don't know what it is not to be wet.
 2. But from that point on everything that was once perfect was now subject to decay and corruption.
 3. And for the first time... Adam and Eve experienced the result of sin... shame.

4. Sin creates Shame. Shame creates separation and blame.

- F. **3:7-8** (Separation)

1. Hid from each other

a. We still hide our true selves from each other

2. Hid from God.

3. Makes us afraid of him... we know we are guilty and that we deserve his judgment.

- G. **3:9-12** (Blame)

1. Blamed Eve

2. **Blamed God**- "You let this happen. You could have stopped it. You made her and put her here."
3. We blame God for our troubles.
4. "You're obviously not good b/c you allowed this to happen"
5. But how did God respond to the sin and blame? - LOVE

H. 3:9

1. They just ruined everything and his first reaction is to pursue them... initiate a dialogue.
 2. Notice even though they had just ruined all of creation... he didn't turn from them. He didn't make it so they couldn't hear him...
 3. He sought them out... Like a shepherd looking for a lost sheep.
 4. He ran to them... like a father whose long lost son comes home
- I. Then God tells them their consequences
1. Woman pain in childbirth and man enduring toil in working.
 2. Their relationship would now be difficult
 3. Every good parent disciplines their children to teach important lessons.
 4. Disobedience has consequences. Obedience leads to freedom.
 5. But what did God not do? What had he said would happen? They would die.
 6. He showed mercy and allowed them to live...
 7. Could have just killed them and started over... but instead he let them live and helped bring about his solution to the problem they had created.
 8. Here's the most amazing part of the story...

J. 3:14-15

1. (Highlight "offspring")- Plural. All humankind. All humanity will be subject to the consequences of sin and will constantly have it battling against them.
2. (Highlight "He") Singular. Seems out of place.
3. God switches from talking about the human race to one particular offspring.
4. Someone who would come with the authority of God to lay down his life (take the death that Adam and Eve earned that day) to forgive all of the sins of humanity.
5. At the very same moment Adam and Eve ruined everything God promises to come into their mess and fix it in order to restore their relationship.
6. And then he gave them another gift...

K. 3:21

1. God personally clothed them. Covered their newly found shame.
2. Even though they chose to rebel he gave them what they needed and proved his love and care for them.

L. God was for them before they could do anything for him.

M. God was for them when they rebelled against him

N. God was for them when they were so ashamed they hid from him and blamed him for their trouble

O. God was for them in the midst of their consequences

P. And God was for them when they could do nothing to fix the mess they had made.

Q. That is how God chose to introduce himself to Israel

R. B/c that is who he is... **God is FOR you.**

III. YOU

A. God is for you

1. Every breath you take is proof.
2. Every drink of water, every amazing waterfall, every relationship you enjoy, every time you enjoy humor and beauty... is proof that God is for you.

B. But too often it seems too good to be true.

1. You feel like you need to hide from him b/c he's angry at your choices
2. You can't approach him b/c of the shame that you feel clings to all that you are
3. There's no way he is for someone like you b/c you are a lost cause
4. God's favorites causes are the lost ones.
5. All of humanity was a lost cause until he came into the mess and fixed it himself.

C. The story of Adam and Eve is proof that you can never mess up so bad that God won't **forgive, pursue, and fight** to restore you.

D. The rest of human history is the story of how God made a way to restore you...

1. A distant descendent of Adam and Eve would put it this way... **Romans 5:18 (NLT)**

E. Maybe it's time to finally accept that God loves you and is for you

F. Maybe you're not ready for that... challenge you to be open to the possibility. Ask him to show you.

G. But if you can accept it, or have accepted it... **SHARE IT.**

H. Show it and talk about it.

I. God is for you. **Accept it and Share it.**

IV. WE

- A. What if this was how we always viewed God?
 - 1. When things were good when things were bad?
 - 2. When we feel like we've made great decisions and when we fall?
- B. What if your kids knew this... what would their future look like?
- C. What if your neighbors and your co-workers knew that God was for them?
- D. What if our sin wasn't an opportunity to blame and hide from God but to turn to him and be reminded of his unending limitless love?
- E. What would you be afraid of?
- F. Here's the truth... **God was for you before you were you and you can't do anything to change it.**