



Sermon Questions

Date: *December 3, 2023* | Scripture: *Gen 1:27-28, 2:15-17, 3:1-15*

1. Read the passage from the sermon together. What do you find convicting? What do you find challenging? What do you find confusing?
2. Our Advent series this year focuses on the reality that God is with us. Reflect on that phrase “God with us.” What comes to mind? What reaction do you feel within yourself in response to it?
3. We start our series in Genesis 1-3 to recognize the fact that God being with his people is not an invention of the gospel writers. The whole story of the Bible is a long history of God acting in history to be with his people. What does our selection of verses tell us about God with us?
4. Our sermon reflected on the tension we all feel between wanting to be with God and wanting to hide from God. How do you personally feel that tension? When in your life have you felt that clashing impulse?
5. From the moment of the fall, God has set out on a mission to look for us, find us, and call us back to himself. This plays out broadly throughout all of redemptive history and personally in each of our stories. Many of us have a single moment we point to as the instant we gave our lives to Jesus and committed to following him. For all of us, though, we realize God had been pursuing us long before that moment. As we journey through our series seeing God work to be with us all, let’s also look back at how God worked to be with us personally. Start by working backwards. When was the moment or the season of life when you first made the conscious decision that you would follow Jesus? In future weeks, you can trace God’s work in your life that came before and led up to that moment.

Inward Grace in Action

Genesis 3 teaches us that behind every sin is a lie we fall for. Rather than exposing them with harsh commands to push them further into shame, God draws Adam and Eve out of hiding with questions that help them see the lie. Here are a few questions you could ask yourself when you find yourself caught in sin.

- What good do you believe God is withholding that you deserve?
- What punishment do you believe you deserve for what you’ve done?
- What wrong done to you do you believe entitles you to act the way you do?
- What injustice do you believe you must set right?

ACTION: Consider a sin you’ve gotten caught up in this past week. It could be a habitual sin or a single act. A harsh word to your spouse, making a joke at someone else’s expense, misusing sex, stealing money, lying to cover your own mistake, remaining silent when you should have called your friend out. Not all of these sins can find their root in one of the questions above, but these sorts of questions can help us process why we do the sins we do. Bring these things to God in prayer and ask him to reveal the lies you fall for.