

Guide for Growth Group Hosts

What Happened?

THINK ABOUT IT

Do you have a short story of something God has done for you since the last Growth Group meeting? Share it with the group!

MAIN GROWTH GROUP SCRIPTURE

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- During this week's message we learned that love requires a choice. What does that mean to you?
- (Read the Verses Below) In Genesis 3:1-13, we see that treason occurs. Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating the fruit from the tree that God said not to eat from. The serpent (satan) wanted to convince them that what God said was not really true. What can we learn from this deception as it relates to our lives today?

*Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." **Genesis 3:1-13 (NIV)***

- There are several effects of sin. One of those effects is fear and shame. How does the enemy try to use fear and shame as a tool to separate us from God?

- Another effect of sin is blame. Have you ever made a mistake, and rather than taking responsibility for the error, you found a way to blame others?
- (Read the Verse Below) Broken creation is probably the biggest effect of sin. Read the verse below and discuss it in the group.

*We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. **Romans 8:22 (NIV)***

- (Read the Verse Below) Jesus changed everything. Based on the verse below, how did Christ's death on the cross affect the relationship with God for those who have accepted Christ?

*When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. . . . Now Adam is a symbol, a representation of Christ, who was yet to come. . . . Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. **Romans 5:12,14,18 (NLT)***

DIVE DEEPER

Go deeper during the week!

- A great way to dive deeper and learn more about Jesus is by reading **God's Word** daily. Commit to reading for at least 5 minutes per day to start. Here is a bible reading guide to help you take your next steps in that area: <https://experienceheritage.org/next-steps/read-the-bible>
- Read the **daily devotionals** each day found at www.experienceheritage.org/blog. You can sign up to have them delivered daily to your email inbox by clicking here: <http://experienceheritage.org/Devotionals>.
- During your daily quiet time with God, read this **memory verse** and think about its meaning:

*Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in... **Revelation 3:20 (NIV)***

- **Watch the messages** online at www.experienceheritage.org/messages.

PRAYER GUIDANCE

Have the participants in your group share their prayer requests. Have different people pray for the prayer requests that were submitted.