

## Session 2: This is Rebellion

February 17-23, 2019

**THIS IS US**  
GOD'S WORD • OUR STORY

### Hangout (30 Minutes)

1. Ice Breakers:

- Think of food's place in human life and culture. When people want to get to know one another, they go out to eat. They cut business deals while they cut their entrees. They mark moments of joy, like birthdays and weddings, by eating. They console one another at funeral dinners.
  - What is one of your favorite traditions where sharing a meal is involved?
  - What is one of your favorite foods or meals to eat?
- Who or what in your life do you think has influenced you the most?
- When you were in junior high, were you a "good kid" or did you tend to get into trouble? What kinds of things did you usually have problems with?

2. If you have time, use the book "The Complete Book of Questions" to continue getting to know each other. Have a group member or two pick a number between 1 and 300, look up the question for that number and encourage everyone to answer. The higher the number the deeper the question. Remember, everyone has the right to pass on any question if they aren't ready to answer. Leaders, copies of this book are available on the table outside Aaron's office.

3. Briefly remind people of the Life Group Agreement and plans for your next meeting.

### Watch the Video (24 Minutes)

Watch the video, if necessary. If everyone viewed the sermon before the meeting, add this time to your discussion.

### Discuss (30 Minutes)

It's okay if you don't get to every question. We encourage groups to answer at least questions 2, 4, and 5.

1. Look up and have someone read Genesis 3:1-8.

Looking up Bible passages: During this study you will be reading from the Bible each week. Because the goal of this study is to better understand the Bible, we encourage you to bring a Bible each week to look up and read the passages from your Bible. Experience has taught us that doing this will help you to become more comfortable with the Bible. Patiently care for one another by taking the time to help everyone find the passages in their Bibles. Passage lookup help will be given for most passages.

- Put yourself in Eve's shoes, as you read through the first temptation, would you imagine your journey would be similar to hers—to disobey God's command not to eat from the tree of knowledge?
- This tree has perplexed interpreters through the centuries. Some have wondered whether its fruit was poison. Others have wondered why a loving God would create an obvious temptation. Still others have asked why eating fruit should cause so great a rift between Adam and Eve and their Maker. What do you think were God's motives for placing this tree in the garden?

2. After sin entered the world, the relationship between God and man changed, but it didn't end. What does this tell you about God's desire and love for us?

3. Look up and have someone read Isaiah 59.

Isaiah, the first book of the latter prophets in the Old Testament, is a book that unveils the full dimensions of God's judgement and salvation. Chapter 59 outlines God's people's need for confession and God's plan for redemption.

Israel's history of rebellion against God's values was well established. In verses 9-15a, the prophet here confesses the nation's sins and laments that they could not approach the light of God's salvation. If this separation from God was our reality without hope, what do you imagine your experience of life would be like today?

4. In Isaiah 59:20 we read, "The Redeemer will come (to God's people), who repent of their sins." Aaron shared that repentance has five parts: 1) Acknowledge your sin, 2) Regret it, 3) Confess it to God, 4) Ask God for forgiveness, and 5) Return to God's values. When you think about repenting sins, which of these five parts challenges you? Why?
5. Look up and have someone read Galatians 5:16-21.

Galatians can be found in the New Testament, a little more than halfway in your Bible. The New Testament begins with the four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John; next comes Acts which describes the birth of the church; then comes Paul's letters listed in order of longest to shortest. Galatians is the fourth longest letter and comes after 2 Corinthians.

In verses 17, the apostle Paul writes that the Holy Spirit is in conflict with the desires of the flesh (our sinful nature). What is encouraging about this truth? What is challenging?

6. How can you make God's Word from this lesson to be more your story?

## Summary

God desires a relationship with us that align with His values. The second major theme of the Bible is that, because of sin, we desire to live by our own values and rebel against God's values separating us from Him. When we repent of our sin and align our values with God's, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we experience the best in life and salvation.

Next week we will learn that **This is Chosen**.

## Pray (5 Minutes)

The anguished cry of confession from the depths of guilt as expressed in Psalm 51:1-12 finds God's absolution and renewal on the certain footing of grace alone. Sin is an inheritance, born in us, ever damaging us. However, God has blotted out even the worst of our sins—adultery and murder—by Jesus sacrifice. Recite Psalm 51 (The Message paraphrase) together as your closing prayer.

**Generous in love—God, give grace! Huge in mercy—wipe out my bad record. Scrub away my guilt, soak out my sins in your laundry. I know how bad I've been; my sins are staring me down. You're the One I've violated, and you've seen it all, seen the full extent of my evil. You have all the facts before you; whatever you decide about me is fair. I've been out of step with you for a long time, in the wrong since before I was born. What you're after is truth from the inside out. Enter me, then; conceive a new, true life. Soak me in your laundry and I'll come out clean, scrub me and I'll have a snow-white life. Tune me in to foot-tapping songs, set these once-broken bones to dancing. Don't look too close for blemishes, give me a clean bill of health. God, make a fresh start in me, shape a Genesis week from the chaos of my life. Don't throw me out with the trash, or fail to breathe holiness in me. Bring me back from gray exile, and put a fresh wind in my sails! Amen.**