



LIFELINE Discussion Guide

Week of December 4, 2023

1. Describe a time when you experienced a powerful or prolonged darkness— maybe inside a basement room, during a power-outage, visiting a cave or cavern, or some other experience of life. How did it feel to be surrounded by overwhelming darkness? What does it feel like when light returns?
2. Read Genesis 3:1-15. Why is this passage commonly called “The Fall”? How would you summarize this event in your own words? What kind of darkness was humanity plunged into at this moment? (see Romans 3:23; 6:23a; Ephesians 2:1-3)
3. The good news of the gospel doesn’t begin with Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem’s manger or even in the predictions of Old Testament prophets. It begins in Genesis 3. Scholars call Genesis 3:15 the “proto-evangelium”— proto means “*first*” and evangelium means “*good news*”. What light of good news begins to shine in this verse?
4. If Satan (a fallen, evil angel) caused such turmoil and led humanity into rebellion and sin, why couldn’t God send a good, holy angel like Gabriel to fix it? Why did the Savior need to be a human being? (see also Hebrews 2:14)
5. While men and women are both made in God’s image, the promise of Genesis 3:15 states that the Savior would be a “he”. Why did the Savior have to be a man? Read Romans 5:18-19 before you answer. What are some ways that Jesus succeeded where Adam failed?
6. How and where did Satan strike Jesus’ “heel”? In what way did Jesus strike Satan’s “head”? What is the biblical event where Jesus achieved total victory over sin, death, and Satan?
7. History is the unfolding of conflict and hostility (*enmity*) between people who love and serve God and those who love and serve themselves, and by extension, Satan. How do we see this “enmity” continuing today in the current culture? What “clashes” do we see in the beliefs and worldviews between Christians and the secular culture?
8. Jesus is the light of the world, and He has shared His light with us through salvation (John 8:12). What are we supposed to do with that light? (see Matthew 5:14-16). What are some practical ways that you can shine the light of Jesus in your everyday life? Be specific!