

BEGINNINGS

2. Salvation in the Beginning

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them?

Read Genesis 3

*And I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.'*

- Did God really say? Have you ever been tempted to believe that God is less than perfectly good and loving? What negative images have you held about God's character? What do these kinds of thoughts lead to?
- *'He will crush your head'*. What does verse 15 tell you about the relative power of Satan and Jesus? Is this an evenly matched contest?
- *The tree of the knowledge of good and evil*. Why is judging such a negative role for humans to assume? How does judging manifest in your life, and what does it lead to?
- *Fig leaf*. What sort of 'fig leaves' do we tend to resort to in order to cover our feelings of shame and nakedness?
- *v16 'he will rule over you'*. The battle of the sexes and the oppression of women is not God's design, but a consequence of the fall. How can we, as followers of Jesus, live a different story?
- If humans are kept from the tree of life, does this mean that the soul is not eternal in itself? How does this affect our view of hell and judgement?
- Outline the ways in which God's response to man's sin is full of grace and mercy. Does this fit with the idea of a vengeful God? Does reading this passage make us want to worship and love God more or less?

Big Idea: 'Sin makes us less than human and leaves us condemned. God gave Himself in Christ so that we could be saved from sin, made fully human and live for ever.'

Break into smaller groups and pray together. Take time to thank God for his grace and kindness to us. Thank Him for making a way for us to be brought back into relationship with Him. Ask Him for His forgiveness for the ways in which we try to rebel against Him and do His job of judging.

Pray for one or two friends who don't know God yet. Pray for opportunities to share good news with them and maybe bring them to church. Pray for the Easter opportunities coming up.