

Give Me Mine: Group Study

This Is Our Story: Week 2

Passage: Luke 15:11-12

Sermon Outline:

Sin is a **breach in relationship** before it's a **breaking of law**.

- A heart of **selfishness**
- A quest for **autonomy**
- A posture of **distrust**

Sin prohibits us from **experiencing God's love**, but it doesn't **stop God from loving**.

Take it home:

1. Focus on **loving God**, not **avoiding sin**.
2. Make **repentance** a normal part of **your life**.

Discussion Questions from "This Is Our Story" Booklet

Discussion helps are indented, italic, & blue.

This week's sermon does a great job of explaining Luke 15:11-12. This group study is meant to spend a little more time going back to Genesis in order to look at the first breach in relationship that occurred.

Think about a time that you enjoyed creating something. What was it and what about the experience brought you joy?

It is also important to notice that we are creative because we were made in the image of a Creator. There is a positive side to our creativity, when it helps to make the world a better place, but when it makes us want to control what is "mine," then it is dangerous. A quick followup question could be, "How would you feel if someone ruined what you made?"

⬆ **Discover the Way of Jesus**

Read Genesis 1:31. How would you describe God's perspective about his creation?

Now read Genesis 2:5-7. At this point, what was missing in creation? How is it that you "work the ground" or care for God's created order in your daily life?

Notice that what God finds missing is: “there was no man to work the ground.” The term for “man” is the generic Hebrew word for humankind (it is the word “Adam,” which later becomes the man’s name, after there is a female), but it does not imply male yet (in fact, in Hebrew there can be masculine, feminine, or neuter words... this word is neuter). Help people understand that part of their purpose in life is to “work the ground,” or to bring order in creation. We live this out in all the various ways that we “work” in our day to day lives.

Read Genesis 2:15-17 and compare it to Genesis 3:1-6. Why does the woman think that the fruit is good? And what does their actions say about their willingness to follow God’s design for them?

Notice the way she says, “Give Me Mine” by her actions. Notice the way that the serpent deceives the couple (remember that Adam, her husband, “was with her,” so he was deceived as well).

♥ **Nurture the Heart of Jesus**

Our temptations are different, but the motivation for sin is still the same. How are we a lot like Eve still today? How is it that you say, “Give me mine!” to God?

This is a great place to go back to the sermon outline and talk about our selfishness, autonomy and distrust.

How does the knowledge of your design and purpose help you to know how to avoid living in rebellion against God?

As I re-read these questions, I feel like maybe the next question should have been asked before this one. Ryan’s “Take it Home” section starts to answer this question.

What would change if you saw your work (past, present or future) as a way of fulfilling your created purpose in life?

I long for the day when in the church, we would value work as a part of our discipleship. What you do, in the day to day world, as long as it is helping to bring order in God’s creation, is a part of God’s calling on your life. Work is not just something that is done in order to get to the weekend, it is a part of the way that we follow Jesus.

○ **Act for the sake of the World**

This week, try to think differently about the value of the “work” that God has given you. Take a picture of something that you do to bring order to the created world this week and text it to 760-781-2161 so we can celebrate how God is using you.

Encourage your people to see this as an act of worship. Our creativity is a way that we reflect the image of God, so let’s celebrate that together.

As a group, here's an option for a way that you can literally "care for the ground" right here in Escondido. Consider adopting a street to take care of. Visit <https://streetstewards.com/> for more info.

If there is time, look at the website together. You can learn more about this or other Love Esco projects at church on Sunday.