

WELCOME HOME

BEING REAL WITH OTHERS

The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?" "Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden," the woman replied. "It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, 'You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.'" "You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. "God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil." The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves. When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the Lord God among the trees. Then the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" He replied, "I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked." "Who told you that you were naked?" the Lord God asked. "Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?" The man replied, "It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it." Then the Lord God asked the woman, "What have you done?" "The serpent deceived me," she replied. "That's why I ate it." Genesis 3:1-13 NLT

1. GOD NEVER INTENDED FOR ME TO BE ISOLATED AND ALONE

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone..." Genesis 2:18 NLT

By yourself you're unprotected. With a friend you can face the worst... Ecclesiastes 4:12
The Message

As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend. Proverbs 27:17 NLT

DISCUSSION: In what way are you still doing life alone? How are you still avoiding having intimate relationships for fear of being "uncovered?" In what way are you resisting God's design for community?

2. GOD'S PLAN IS FOR ME TO BE A PART OF A FAMILY

Even before he made the world... God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. Ephesians 1:4-5 NLT

You belong in God's household with every other Christian. Ephesians 2:19 LB

God's family is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. 1 Timothy 3:15 GWT

DISCUSSION: The effect of Adam and Eve's sin was broken relationship. Where have you seen sin cause broken relationships in your life? How has your sin contributed to those broken relationships?

3. THE CHURCH IS A PLACE WHERE I CONNECT WITH GOD'S FAMILY AND LEARN TO HEAL BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS

All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other. 2 Corinthians 5:18 The Message

In Christ's family there can be no division... Galatians 3:28 The Message

So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified. Romans 15:7 LB

DISCUSSION: Where are you resisting God's desire and efforts to heal your broken relationships?

PRAYER PROJECT: Take 5-7 minutes to be alone with God. Talk to him about what the barriers are that keep you from thoroughly embracing His desire for you to be more intimately involved in His family. Ask Him to show you areas of your heart that are wounded. Give close attention to initial thoughts as well as emotions that come up inside of you.

Get with 2-3 others to discuss what God shared with you. Confess to one another and pray for one another in order to seek healing (James 5:16).