

It's Complicated Five Lies Discussion

Before You Begin:

The heartbeat of this first meeting is to get acquainted as a group. Take some time before you gather by getting something to drink and serving a light snack. After a few minutes, gather together. Introduce yourself, and have others introduce themselves as well. Have each person share their name, a little about their family, church background, how they found New Heights/how long they have been attending. You could also ask to share one exciting thing that is going on in their life right now.

GROUP GUIDELINES

Take a couple minutes at the beginning to establish some group guidelines.

- **Group Attendance:** I will do my best in making this Life Group a priority this semester.
- **Safe Environment:** We commit to listen to each other and to support one another without judgment.
- **Confidentiality:** We commit to keep confidential anything shared within the context of our Life Group.
- **Conflict Resolution:** If ever there is a conflict, I will be willing to resolve it in a Biblical manner by following the principles of Matthew 18:15-17. We will not gossip to each other or about each other.
- **Welcome Newcomers:** We commit to invite others to join our Life Group and we will warmly welcome anyone who is new.
- **Building Relationships:** We commit to spend time together as a Life Group and get to know each other. We will pray for each other regularly and support each other through life's ups and downs.
- **Discussion:** No one will be forced to talk, you will only contribute to the conversation in the group time, if you are comfortable.

BIG IDEA

This week, Pastor Bill began a new series that is designed to help us do relationships God's way. The world has a lot to say on the subject of relationships, but in order for them to work, we need to let the One who designed them define them. In Genesis 3:1-7, we see five consecutive lies that the enemy uses to ultimately trap us in shame from our past.

READ

Genesis 3:1-7 (NIV) *Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.*

MAKE IT PRACTICAL

1. The enemy begins with questioning God's Word, manipulating us to believe that the Word isn't totally true. But the truth is, that while God's Word may confront us, it's meant to bring us closer to God's best for our lives.
2. Next, Satan scoffs at the consequences associated with our sin, leading us to believe that sinful choices won't hurt anything.
3. Then, Satan accuses God of evil intent, making righteousness seem boring and making sin seem fun. In reality, the most loving thing God does is call us out of our sin.
4. Fourth, the devil advertises sin as beneficial and tries to convince us that life will be better if we are in control. This keeps us from believing the truth that giving up something now for something better later isn't a sacrifice, but an investment.
5. Last, the devil uses sin to create shame in an effort to destroy our future relationships. But the truth is that if we turn to God for forgiveness, we can live the rest of our lives free from the pain of our past.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Why is questioning God's Word such an attack of the enemy? Take some time and share some ways Satan gets you to question God's Word and His authority in your life.
- What stands out to you the most in the passage, Genesis 3:1-7? What are some of your takeaways?
- Is there a time in your life that you believed a lie and experiencing God's Truth changed your perspective?

****Leader Tip****

Consider sharing a personal example of a lie you've believed in your own life and how experiencing God's truth changed your perspective. Create space for group members to be open as they share their own story by listening and encouraging each of them.

READ

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NIV) *We also thank God continually because, when you **received** the Word of God which you heard from us, you **accepted** it, not as the word of men, but actually as it is, the Word of God, which is **at work** in you who **believe**.*

- What is your takeaway from this verse?

READ

Proverbs 14:12 (NIV) *There is a way that **appears to be right**, but in the end it leads to **death**.*

- Have you ever seen this verse play out in life? If so, when?
- Why is shame such a tactic of Satan? What have you found to be the solution to shame?

PRAYER FOCUS

- Ask if anyone has a specific prayer request or praise report to share. (*Leaders: Record this in the app under the Attendance button for your group's meeting so you can follow up with prayer needs throughout the semester.*)
- Pray over your group's needs and the prayer focus below:

Father, thank You for Your grace that meets us where we are. You have shown us in Your Word that Your plan is the source of joy and fulfillment in our relationships. Allow us to see where we have believed the enemy's lies, and help us to walk in repentance.