

# GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

## THE WAR WE IGNORE

### SERIES THEME//

Think about the way we make disciples: We teach truth to change thinking. We explain ethics, to influence behavior. We provide counseling to heal hearts and mend relationships. These practices are essential to discipleship, but they are not sufficient for life transformation. Scripture tells us that there is an unseen reality that impacts everything: the spiritual world of angels, demons, principalities and powers. What does the Bible reveal about this world? Do we influence it, and what role does it play in our lives? In our Gospel mission, we can never forget that God has included us in his plan to overthrow the Kingdom of Satan! This series will equip us to understand and take our place in this very real battle.

## SERMON; DECEPTION | GENESIS 3:1-13

MAY 14, 2017

**SERMON THEME// Satan deceives in order to destroy, but we can resist him by submitting to Scripture.**

### LEADER//

We are calling out the works of the Devil during this sermon series. This means we are getting his attention, and by your Growth Group participating this study - your group is also putting themselves in his crosshairs.

Understand this, acknowledge it, and be ready for his attack. Know that it will come into their lives and into your group. Pray for protection, clarity, and unity as your group moves through the weeds of this sermon series.

### OPENING UP// *Start with prayer*

1. How has your outlook changed/deepened since the start of this series?
2. Where do you see evidence of deception in our world today; in what areas of our culture and society?
3. What's the problem with deception if it keeps people happy?

### DIGGING DEEPER//

"Devil" comes from the Greek word *Diabolos*. This is the title used for him in Matthew 4. That word means "to slander" or "slandorous." This title reveals Satan's MO. He loves to bring division by speaking lies about one person to another. He especially loves to bring division by leading us to believe lies about the Father. In Genesis, Satan slandered the Lord to Eve, leading to a breaking of covenant.

Another passage that we couldn't explore in the sermon was John 8:39-47. This passage is an incredible picture of how Satan operates. Jesus calls him a "liar and the father of lies." He also makes an important point about *affiliation*. When we speak words of gossip and slander, we're speaking the Devil's native tongue.

As we reread Genesis 3, be mindful of how Satan is seeking to bring division here...



## GENESIS 3:1-13

[1] Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" [2] And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, [3] but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" [4] But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. [5] For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." [6] So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. [7] Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

[8] And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. [9] But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" [10] And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." [11] He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" [12] The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." [13] Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

- Take a moment to pray over this text, asking God to use this text to continue to shape your life as you take the word *preached* and make it the word *lived*.
- Before we watch the sermon video, take a moment and go in a circle having each person answer this question: *Where have I believed the devil's deception at some time in my own life?*

### SERMON DISCUSSION VIDEO//

- As you watch the sermon discussion video, take note of what you found intriguing or insightful as you hear Pastor Adam discuss the sermon he preached.

### THE WORD PREACHED//

- What did Pastor Adam mean when he said, "Satan loves to deceive by asking questions that aren't really questions"? How can he ask questions that aren't questions?
- Satan tries to get us, and the world, to question God's *goodness* and then God's *truthfulness*. How easily do you see the world falling into these two traps? Have you fallen into them?



- Why are these the things, *lies about God's goodness and truthfulness*, which Satan tries to deceive us with?
- Satan is motivated to deceive because he desires to *destroy covenant*. Firstly, what is the covenant, and secondly, why is Satan bent on destroying it?

## **THE WORD LIVED//**

- Pastor Adam said, "Doubt can become a doorway to deception." Many in the church believe that doubt needs to be embraced as a healthy path towards solidifying personal faith. How would you balance these two notions?
- Have you ever seen a relationship torn apart because of lies; what did it look like?
- What are some ways you see Satan at work in the world today, trying to twist truth?
- In your own life, what are some of the falsehoods about the Father that you have been tempted to believe?
- What are some of the ways we make ourselves vulnerable to deception? Why are these things so easy?
  - In light of that, what are some effective ways to guard ourselves against deception?
- How can we help someone who has fallen into deception? [If time permits, read 1 Corinthians 5 and 2 Corinthians 2:5-11; How does Paul and the Corinthian church model what it means to help people overcome deception?]

## **CLOSE IN PRAYER//**

### **LEADER//**

As you close in prayer, this sermon series discussion will definitely benefit from an extra measure of prayer. Pray for protection for your group and your group's families, pray for Peace Church as we enter into a time of looking at this subject more closely, and pray for the pastors as they immerse themselves in this material to preach better sermons.

