

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. ***Enjoy discovering more about Him!***

"THE ROAD OF PROMISE" | GENESIS 3: 14-15 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What promises have you or others made in the past that were connected to Christmas?

"Conflict Announced" Genesis 3:14-15

After Adam and Eve sinned, God curses the serpent and announces that one day a man will undo the curse of sin, who will become Jesus. **What are signs of that there is still a battle with sin and Satan today? How does knowing God sent someone to fight the battle for people change things?**

"A Redeemer Promised" Genesis 3:15

Because God promised future offspring, He guided and protected His people in unexpected ways that led to Jesus' birth. **What does this show about God and His plans? How should that impact the faith of His followers today?**

"A Victory Guaranteed" Genesis 3:15

God promise at the beginning hints that there will be a victory over Satan and sin, and He pursues people with faithfulness. **How has God pursued you? What are ways you have responded to His pursuit?**

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

Christmas, the coming of Jesus, was first whispered in the Garden of Eden as God promises there will be an offspring of the woman who will battle the serpent to undo the curse of sin. **How has God met you in times of failure and despair? What are ways you reflect on His promises and have hope in His victory? Make time to spend with God and to thank Him for His promises and victory this week.**

The Road to Bethlehem

11-16-25

1 The Road of Promise

I. Announce:

- A. Welcome to those watching online (2nd).
- B. Slide1-4 Kelly: CFLC. Women's Event. Divorce Care. STM.
- C. Slide5 Baby Dedication (2nd Cam): Kairi Nashcha Bailey-Puentes.
- D. Slide6 Baby Dedication (3rd): Kian Coscolluela. Jay & Leana. [kosco-U-ella]
 - 1. It is **from God** that you receive your children, and it is **to God** that you should lead them!
 - 2. Children should come w/a sticker: *"Yours for a Limited Time."* It goes fast.
- E. Slide7 Prayer:

II. Intro:

- A. So many **Movies** are built around **Good vs. Evil**: The Lord of the Rings trilogy (the depiction of *light vs. darkness, hope vs. despair*). Star Wars saga ("the Force" as a metaphor for the constant pull between *good and evil*). Harry Potter series (the triumph of *love, friendship, and moral courage over darkness and power*).
 - 1. This morning we will look at **the ultimate battle** between **Good and Evil**.
 - 2. God describes *a future conflict* between a descendant of Eve and the descendants of the serpent.
- B. Slide8 Series Title: **The Road to Bethlehem** (6 Sun's leading us to Xmas Eve Service)
- C. Theme: The **Journey of Faith** that leads us to **the manger**.
- D. Series Overview: The road to Bethlehem is *more than* a journey through ancient Judea - it's the road of every believer's heart. *Each step along the way shows - How God leads His people, toward the fullness of, His promise in Christ.*
 - 1. Slide9a 6: **The Road of:** Promise, Preparation, Surrender - Obedience, Wonder, Worship.
- E. Slide9b **The Road of Promise** - *The First Whisper of Christmas*.

F. **See**, before there was Bethlehem, before shepherds and angels, before a manger or a star ... **there was a garden**. A garden filled with beauty and freedom **until one conversation changed everything**.

1. **In a single moment**: trust - broken; innocence - lost; **and** darkness entered the world. **And** Adam and Eve dove into the shadows, hearts pounding with **shame**. Paradise was no longer home.

2. But right there, in that very place of failure ... **God spoke! Not with thunder or condemnation, but with a Promise**. [It wasn't shouted; it was whispered]. Just **a single vs** in the middle of judgment, **but** it carried **the sound of hope** for all humanity. In that dark moment, God planted the seed of a Savior, "The seed of the woman will crush the serpent's head."

G. **Every prophecy that follows is** simply **the echo** of *that whisper* growing louder through the ages. *Christmas began with God speaking hope over Eden*.

H. **Outline**: *Conflict Announced. A Redeemer Promised. Victory Guaranteed*.

III. Slide10a **1 CONFLICT ANNOUNCED (Gen.3:14,15)**

A. *"I will put **enmity** between you and the woman ..."*

B. The story of Christmas didn't start in a **stable** - it started in a **garden**.

The very first promise of Christmas was *whispered to a fallen couple*, by **a gracious God**, in the midst of *their failure*.

C. [Let's go back to *in the beginning*] The Bible starts Gen.1&2 w/creation: it was **good**, **very good**. **Then** the 1 thing *not good* (man being alone), got fixed and it was **good again!**

Then ch.3 introduced something **not good**, the *serpent*, **then** the fall of man, **not good**. [brings us to our passage, Gen.3:14-15]

D. So to begin *The Road of Promise*, here is *The First Whisper of Christmas* ...

E. Slide10b **14** *The LORD God said to **the serpent**, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above *all* livestock and above *all* beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go (think enemy docile/defeated), and dust you shall eat all the days of your life (underworld - earthworm).* **15** *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and*

between your offspring and her offspring; he (Jesus) shall bruise your head (satan), and you (satan) shall bruise his heel (Jesus). ”

1. **Enmity** = NLT *And I will cause hostility between you and the woman.*
MSG *I'm declaring war between you and the Woman.*

F. **Slide11** This is *The Protoevangelium* in the Road to Bethlehem

1. (from the Gk *proto* = 1st and *evangelion*/U-on-gelion = good news/gospel).
This refers to *the 1st announcement of the gospel* in the Bible.
2. So here, *the covenant promise* comes *in the form of a curse*, the curse of the serpent. **God the Father** makes this promise, *that* there is **One** coming who is going to *undo this curse*.

G. **Know this:** There will always be *spiritual conflict* between Satan and humanity.
(which answers: *why do I keep getting tempted in this 1 area? - How long oh Lord?*)

1. **The line of evil** (serpent's seed/offspring) and **the line of faith** (woman's seed/offspring) run all through Scripture.
 - a) Life/Death. Truth/Lies. Spirit/Flesh. Kingdom of God/Kingdom of Darkness. Christ/the Serpent. Grace/Lawlessness. Faith/Fear. Blessing/Curse. *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.* John 1:5
 - b) Heaven's Plan/Hell's Plot. - *The Way of the Cross/The Way of the World.*
The Road to Destruction/The Road to Bethlehem.

IV. **Slide12a 2 A REDEEMER PROMISED (Gen.3:15b)** *the Promise that changed everything!*

A. "... *between your offspring and her offspring ...*" (the seed/offspring is **ultimately Christ**, born of a **woman**, *not a man ...* already hinting to **the virgin birth**)

B. **The Godly Line of Jesus, the Promised Seed.**

1. **Adam and Eve:** The promise begins - one of Eve's descendants will *crush the serpent's head*. [thru Cain, thru Abel?]
 - a) The very next ch is the **1st murder**. The **seed of the serpent**, **Cain** - kills the **seed of the woman** - **Abel**. Now what? [1Jn.3:12 *Do not be like Cain, who was of the evil one*]
2. **B Seth:** God raises up another son through whom the promise continues.

a) **Ps:** just highlighting major players. Can't do all 42 gen's from Mt list, *Ab to Jesus*.

3. **C Noah:** The promised seed is *preserved through the flood*.

4. **D Shem:** Out of Noah's 3 sons - Shem carries the covenant line.

C. The Patriarchal Line.

1. **E Abram:** God's covenant promise is renewed: through Ab's seed *all nations* will be blessed.

2. **F Isaac:** The miracle child of promise born to Sarah in her old age.

3. **G Jacob:** The younger son who receives the blessing over big bro *Esau*; God reaffirms the covenant with Jacob.

a) **Now, out of the 12 sons/tribes who would it pass to?** Prob Joseph (Gen.37-47 - 20%) the story focuses on him. *Nope!*

4. **H Judah:** Of Jacob's 12 sons, *the royal line* comes through **Judah**.

a) Judah offers himself as **a substitute** for Benjamin, a picture of the coming Redeemer. [Joseph silver cup found in Benj stuff. You guys go, Ben's staying here. *Judah, no way keep me instead of Ben*, it will kill father/Jacob.]

b) **Judah a substitute** - for the one whom his father loves.

D. The Royal Line.

1. **I David:** Judah's *greater son*; Israel's king and covenant representative. David defeats Goliath as **the representative** of his people (remember, it was a battle of champions - 1 man to **represent** each people - Isr. / Phil.)

E. The Fulfillment of the Promise.

1. **J Jesus Christ:** The *Greater David*, the Promised Seed to whom all others point.

2. He does what **Judah** and **David** did, *all in one act*. He offers Himself as our **substitute** and **representative for the sons/daughters whom His Father loves**.

3. He dies the death *humanity deserved*, enters the valley of death, *and defeats the enemy* on behalf of all who are *in Him by faith*.

- F. 12k *The first step on the road to Bethlehem begins not with human effort, but *divine promise*.

V. Slide13a **3 VICTORY GUARANTEED (Gen.3:15c)**

A. “*He* (Jesus) *shall bruise your head* (satan), *and you* (satan) *shall bruise his heel* (Jesus).”

1. Christ's heel is *bruised* at the cross (suffering). Satan's head is *crushed* through the resurrection (victory). [like this pic better, *heal bruised-nails in feet*]

B. Slide13b God doesn't leave humanity to *climb back* to Him; He promises to **come down to us**.

1. The same God who kept His word *then*, will keep His word *now*.
2. Christmas is proof that **no promise** from God, will **ever fail**.
3. The road to Bethlehem is paved with - *God's faithfulness*.

a) *For all the promises of God find their *Yes* in Him.* 2 Cor.1:20

C. Slide13c The story of Scripture is not *man's search for God*, but God's search for man!

1. From “*Where are you?*” in Genesis, to “*Come!*” in Revelation.

a) Slide13d God's voice never stops pursuing!

2. Hear God's voice *not only w/Adam and Eve* (where are you?), *but* also w/ *Cain* (God warned him before the murder & questions him after, *seeking to awaken his conscience*). OT: Noah, Abraham, Hagar, Jacob, Moses, Elijah, David (even after sin and failure). - NT: Peter, Levi, Samaritan woman, Man born blind, Zacchaeus, women caught in adultery. Jesus crossed a stormy sea in pursuit of 1 demoniac. Thief on the cross. He came back for Thomas. Post Res: Saul, Cornelius, Lydia, Ethiopian Eunuch.
3. “*Surely goodness and mercy shall pursue me all the days of my life.*”

D. Slide14 **Victory Guaranteed** - *The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.* Rm.16:20

1. Paul says this to **comfort** his audience with a message of **hope**: God will soon defeat Satan and their enemies (hear that today saints!). The NT frequently quotes Psa 110:1 to depict ***all things*** being placed under the feet of **Christ**.
2. Here Paul refers to all things being placed under the feet ***of believers*** to emphasize their participation in **God's Victory!**

E. **End/Prayer**: Lord, TY for this *beam of light* breaking through the darkest moment of history.

F. Keywords: offspring, serpent, Promise.

Psa 110:1 The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your ***footstool***.” (Footstool, *complete subjugation*. BKC)