



Galatians 4:4-5

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Genesis 3:14-15

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, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

To see the meaning of Christmas in the present, we must see the promise of Christmas in the past.

For the week of November 25th, 2018

SERMON SUMMARY

TO SEE THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS IN THE PRESENT, WE MUST SEE THE PROMISE OF CHRISTMAS IN THE PAST

3 important reminders about God’s original Christmas promise:

1. It started in a garden, not in a stable
2. It was made to a viper, not a virgin
3. It had as much to do with a death as it did with a birth

WORD

1. What was one thing in the sermon that stood out or hit home for you?
2. Can you remember a specific time when someone made you an important promise, and then kept their promise? What makes promise keeping so meaningful?
3. Just as God’s people had to wait for thousands of years for God to keep his promise and send Jesus, we now have to wait for Jesus to come again. What makes waiting so hard?
4. Although we often think of the first Christmas promise as being made to Mary, the prophets, or Abraham, Genesis 3 shows us that God’s first promise to send the Saviour was in the garden of Eden. Pastor Jason talked about how we often try to recreate the perfection of Eden, but sin and its effects always cause all our attempts to fail. In what ways do we try to “recreate Eden” in our own lives? What do our failed attempts ultimately show us that we need?
5. Not only was the first Christmas promise made in the garden of Eden, it was made to Satan (who was in the form of a serpent). By promising to send a Saviour who would crush the serpent’s head, what was God showing us about Himself?
6. Pastor Jason shared how sin can be powerfully at work in our lives. It can cause us to:
 - a. Question God in ways that lead to harmful choices (Gen 3:1-6)
 - b. Live in a state of guilt (Gen 3:7,10)
 - c. Attempt to hide due to guilt and shame (Gen 3:7-8)
 - d. Shift the blame for our own wrongdoing (Gen 3:12-13)

If you’re honest, in which of these ways can you see the power of sin at work in your life? Share a bit about it.

7. Part of the original Christmas promise was that God would one day send a Saviour to crush the serpent's head. At the cross, Jesus sealed Satan's fate. When Jesus returns, he will crush Satan's head. Read the prophetic words of Revelation 2:2-10. What are you most looking forward to about the day that Satan is vanquished forever?

ACTION

1. Take a moment this week to study one or more of God's promises. Rest in the fact that, although we may go through seasons of waiting, God always keeps his promises at just the right time.
2. One night this week, go through week 1 of the UBC family devotional guide to help your family remember Jesus - the PROMISED Son. You can view the electronic version at www.universitybaptistchurch.com/christmas

PRAYER

1. Pray that God will help us trust His words/promises and reject the empty words/promises of the Enemy.
2. Pray for UBC to cherish Jesus above all else this Christmas season.

