

## Our Wednesday Night Bible Study

The believer participates in Christ by faith. For example: The next time you find yourself tempted by sin, stop and pray. Let God's questions of Adam and Eve, found in Genesis 3, guide your prayer. Note: You may not be accustomed to letting God direct your prayer through His questions, your answers, and finally hearing God's voice.

Imagine God asking, "Where are you?"

Are you standing in the truth of the world eating the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil? (Judgment) Are you standing in the truth of the Good News of Jesus Christ. (Redeemed and Forgiven) Are you eating from the Tree of Life which bears the fruit of forgiveness, grace, and love?

Are you afraid of God because of something you think or feel is "wrong"?

Shame: Name the feeling \_\_\_\_\_. (Love God with all your heart.)

Guilt: Name the judgment \_\_\_\_\_. (Love God with all your mind.)

Blame: Name the person you believe is at fault.

How does the presence of shame, guilt, and blame create a place of suffering?

Imagine God asking, "Who told you, you are \_\_\_\_\_?" (Fill in the blank with the words you used to name your shame, guilt, and/or blame.)

The goal is to name the people who taught you to experience shame, guilt, and blame as morally, ethically, or legally wrong. These people may be the many lords of your life.

Will you let your neighbor, Satan, or even yourself have the final word of judgement regarding your life?

Imagine God asking, "What have you done?"

The goal here is to confess ownership, responsibility, and authority of your thoughts, feelings, and actions.

If you have gotten this far, you now know why good people suffer.

Hear the Good News.

Jesus suffered everything you have named!  
Jesus redeemed everything you have named!  
Jesus forgives everything you have named!

Will you place your faith in the power of Sin, your neighbor, or in the name of Jesus Christ? You have faith in whom you trust to guide you in life, sin, and death.

In all things, give thanks. Write a prayer giving thanks for Jesus meeting you in your place of suffering.

Let the suffering die and rise in the power of forgiveness! Forgiveness sets you free from the prison of sin, suffering, judgment, and condemnation. Forgiveness remembers Christ Jesus. "It is as if the sin never happened." (see Jeremiah 31:34 and Romans 8:1-5)