



Diving Deeper: A Gather Group discussion guide
or personal devotional guide



Understanding The Choice

Introduction: "Choose Your Own Adventure" books was a series that was popular in the 1980's. As a child, I remember reading these books and being submerged in the plot as I navigated through a series of adventures. The reader is the main character in the story and is presented with choices to make throughout the book. Each choice will guide the reader to a different page with differing consequences. The wrong choice could bring about disaster and a sudden end to the story. A series of good choices can bring success and a great ending. The life lessons in this particular genre are tremendous. I learned that every choice has a consequence . . . so be careful how you choose.

Text: Read Genesis 1-3

Discussion:

1. Icebreaker: Did you ever read "Choose Your Own Adventure" books? If so what did you like about them. What lessons did you learn?
2. Many people like to claim that mankind is completely autonomous and possess complete free will. Is this true? What is the difference in being free to choose and being completely autonomous and free?
3. The "Choose Your Own Adventure" books are written by an author and you are placed in his story. How is this like life? Who is the author of life? What areas of your life did you get placed in that you had no control over?
4. In the book series, the main character is presented with many circumstances in which he/she will need to make a choice. How is this like life? Are you in control of orchestrating all your circumstances? What are you in control of in your circumstances?
5. Genesis one and two is clear that God is the author of life. He is the creator and sustainer of all that there is: including space, the environment, the plants and animals, and mankind. Because he is the author of all, then all is dependent on God for existence. In fact, the NT explains that Jesus is the one that has created and holds all things in his power. Read Col. 1:15-19, 1 Cor. 8:6, Hebrews 1:3, John 1:1-10. Knowing these truths, are we independent from God or are we dependent on God? What impact does this have in our life?
6. Read Genesis 1. Underline where it states that "God said" and "God saw that it was good." God alone creates what is good. What God calls good is good. What God calls bad is bad. How do you see people oppose that truth?
7. Genesis 1:27. God made man to be his image bearer. He made mankind as male and female. Our culture fights against this truth and does not see the beauty in our gender. How does the truth of God's word place a high value on male and female?
8. Genesis 2 gives a detailed description of how the Lord created the man and the woman. We see in Genesis 2:23 that God brings the man and woman into a holy union. Why is this established and how does the man and the woman need one another? Why is there beauty in male and female? How is the world trying to destroy this beauty?
9. Genesis 2:15-17. God gives Adam a work to do and a will to obey? Mankind was given the divine task in stewarding God's great creation. How can we carry this work out? Why did God place a tree that was forbidden? What was the purpose in presenting Adam and Eve with a choice?
10. Genesis 3. We read of Satan tempting Eve and presenting her with a series of questions. They aim at the following: What is true? What is right? and Who am I? Does God set truth or do we create our own truth? Does God set the moral standard for what is good and evil, or do we set that standard? Are we gods? or Are we God's. Discuss/write.
11. What was the consequences for Adam and Eve's disobedience? How did God show mercy?
12. How did Jesus accomplish what Adam could not?

Think About it:

Jesus is the last Adam who makes it possible to be in right relationship with God. By trusting in Christ we are made new. We now have a new path set before us. As we follow Jesus, we will make the wise choice and walk in life and not death.

Moving Forward:

Live under submission to God this week. Seek his truth and wisdom and make every choice this week towards his path.