

Through The Bible in One Year

The Adventure of Many Lifetimes

Unpublished Work, December 2005, Laura Gardner.

Theme: God's Word, Power for Life

Week 1 Small Group Bible Study & Sunday School Lesson

Open (Sharing our Own Stories & Getting To Know One Another)

1. Where are you in the birth order of your family? How did that shape you? 2. How are you at growing plants: ____ Green Thumb (everything thrives) ____ All Thumbs (try hard, somethings thrive, others don't) ____ Black Thumb (everything dies). 3. Who has been most influential in helping you to know God? How?

Going Deeper Into God's Word Together

Read aloud Genesis 1:1-3, 26-27; 3.1-12; Psalm 1; Matthew 4.1-11

Genesis: 1. What does it signify that God speaks? Why is God's Word so powerful?
2. What does it mean that people are created by God in God's image and likeness? What does that signify about our nature, powers and abilities? 3. What is our purpose on earth (Gen.1.26, 2.18)?

Psalm: 1. How is a believer who meditates on God's Word day and night like a tree planted by streams of water? 2. What does the Psalmist mean when he says the one who meditates on God's Word day and night they are like trees that always bears fruit and whose leaves never wither? 3. What is the difference between reading and meditating on God's Word?

Matthew: 1. What does the fact that Jesus, God's Son, was tempted by Satan suggest about what we should expect to happen to us as people who follow Jesus as his disciples? 2. What is Jesus' physical condition when Satan attacks Jesus? How many times does Satan tempt Jesus? What does this tell us about Satan's strategies? 3. Each time Jesus resists temptation by saying "It is written..." Written where? What does this tell us about what Jesus had done to prepare himself to repel Satan's attacks? What does it suggest we should do to face and overcome the attacks of evil in our lives? 4. When resisted, the devil departs. Angels come and minister to Jesus. What does this tell us about resisting the evil one?

Reflecting On What God Is Telling Us:

1. Communication is vital to every relationship. In what ways does God communicate with us? How do we communicate with God? Which way(s) are you best at? Which needs the most work?
2. How are your "leaves" (life in God-see Psalm 1) right now? ____ Green & growing ___ Mostly Maintaining ____ Dry and drooping. What would help most to move you forward with God: ___ Pruning (cutting out things) ___ Fertilizing (prayer, worship) ___ Watering (pouring in God's Word) ____ Harvesting (serving, witnessing) ___ Other

Applying/Putting Into Practice What God's Told Us

What one thing will you do this week to go deeper into God's Word?