

Surrey Chapel Fellowship Groups, Autumn 2014

This autumn our fellowship group study material will be somewhat different. We will aim to follow the theme of the morning services, providing an overview of the whole Bible! It is an ambitious goal and to get the best from it you will need to keep abreast of the sermons and do a little homework beforehand, but I hope this will be fruitful for us to gain a picture of the whole sweep of The Good Book!

Pastor Tom

October 15th/16th – Session 1: Genesis 1-3

Goal – so show how the opening chapters of Genesis lays the groundwork for understanding our basic need for salvation and the beginnings of his plan to provide a saviour

Before the meeting – read Genesis 1-3

Genesis 1-2 lay the foundation for understanding the origin and nature of the universe, and the place of lives within it. Laying aside for a moments questions such as timescale and evolution; list some real life issue in our world today addressed here.

For example – The God given nature of marriage (2:24)

Be prepared to share your thoughts!

At the meeting:

Part 1 – Creations and catastrophe

Read Genesis 3:1-7

Can you see yourself at all in what Adam and Eve did?

And so the consequences of their sin tear through the bodies and souls, touching every part of them. It affects all of creation, all of history; all their unborn children till the end of time must live under death in the broken world beyond Eden.

Does God's reaction to Adam and Eve (and to the whole human race) seem harsh to you?

Those of you who read Genesis 1-3 beforehand – what hints are there that God has a plan to redeem this situation?

Part 2 – Patriarchs and Promises

In the sermon on Genesis 12:1-7 we learned how God's plan of salvation involved him choosing Abraham and giving promises (making a covenant) to him and his children which is still in effect today.

- He would receive divine blessing and protection
- He would father a great nation
- They would bless the whole world
- They would be granted a land

The rest of the book describes how God dealt with the "Patriarchs" (Abrahams sons and grandsons)

(Over)

Divide into groups of 2-4 and look at these passages and New Testament summaries. What do you think would be their main message to us today?

Abraham Genesis 15:1-6 (Romans 4:1-3)

Jacob Genesis 25:21-23;29-34 (Romans 9:10-12)

Joseph Genesis 50:18-21 (Romans 8:28)

Prayer time

- Confess ways in which you have followed in the footsteps of Adam and Eve
- Thank God for his plan of salvation
- Think specifically of some people who could benefit from the promise to Abraham that he would bless the nations. Pray that they would come to have faith in Christ

For the next meeting

Read 2 Kings 17:1-23. How would you summarise in one sentence the gloomy message of Old Testament history?