

Did you all tread the bible verses in small group?

We thought that tonight we'd reverse things a little bit and ask the small group questions BEFORE we did the teaching instead of having a quiz about what you just heard, you had a chance to get into the meat of the discussion and THEN hear what the Church has to say about the subject.

In the reading, we see the Holy Spirit revealing an important truth about mankind.

1. God made us in His image.
2. He made us perfect and beautiful.
3. He made us to share an eternal relationship with Him, in His love.
4. We screwed it up.
5. So he kicked us out of the house.

This is what the church calls "Original Sin". The first sin, the first time WE thought we were as smart as God and decided on our own NOT to obey Him.

If you understand it, that's what sin is. Us, taking things into our own hands because we think we know better than Him.

WHO KNOWS BETTER THAN THE ONE WHO MADE US?

After God expelled Adam and Eve from the garden, eve started to become suspicious...

Ok, that's not in the bible but in all seriousness, that is one of the consequences of sin. We start to think, well, I already did that, so what difference will it make if I do it again, or so what if I also do the other thing...

Why did humanity sin? What tempted Eve to tempt her husband to go against the explicit instructions of God?

The serpent. The devil. The enemy.

We are fighting the enemy every moment of every day of our lives. We have to be diligent in our hearts to realize when we have sinned. We have to look at the triggers in our lives and put them behind us. When Jesus was tempted in the desert:

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

And this is the cool part!

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

I'm still waiting for the angels, but there have been many occasions when I was tempted to sin, and simply say saying "Get away from me Satan" I was able to control the temptation...

The devil is real, we are in a constant battle with him. He is forever and always trying to take us away from God.

But here's the good news. ***The battle is already won.*** Christ promised us that of His Church, "The gates of Hell shall not prevail against it!"

God is the all-powerful, omnipotent creator and ruler of the universe. Jesus is His son, sent to redeem our souls from our sin. God the father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are one and the same. When Jesus promised that the gates of Hell would not prevail against his church, that was a promise directly from God.

Believe it. Live it. Be saved in it.

### **WE ARE NOT ABANDONED**

God loves us despite our sin. So he has a plan to save us.

### **THE REALITY OF SIN**

It exists, we all do it to some extent. You're not going to be saints all the time, and God knows this.

### **ONE CROSS, ONE INFINITE MERCY**

When Jesus died on the cross, he took the punishment we all deserve for our sins. Because God is infinitely loving and infinitely perfect, any sin we commit separates us from Him.

### **HEALED AND MADE WHOLE**

Thank God for Reconciliation! The priest speaks with the presence of Jesus, the only one who can forgive our sins and he tells us "Your sins are forgiven"

Think of it like the tug of war we had outside. One side pulling against the other. Imagine that you are holding the ends of two ropes, being pulled on one side by God and on the other by the Enemy. And all you have to do is make the decision of which rope to let go of.

Let go of the enemy's rope, ask for and accept his forgiveness and God will accept you as His loved and perfect child.