

# THE LONG-AWAITED SAVIOUR

## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR CONNECT GROUPS

19 & 20 NOV 2022

“IN THE FALL, A LONG-AWAITED REDEMPTION”

GENESIS 3.1-19

### Suggestions for Making the Most of your Group Time

1. Begin by reviewing the video of the sermon, preferably before you meet together (see <https://www.brmc.org.sg/services/sermons/>).
2. Read the Scripture passage together, before entering into discussion.
3. Spend time on both question components, namely:
  - a. Comprehension (*Who? What? When? Why? How?*);
  - b. Application / Transformation (*So what? What action should I take? Perspective should I adopt? Value should I uphold? Emotion should I embrace? Habit should I develop? Desire should I nurture? etc*)
4. Discuss as few or as many questions as best fits your group’s current context and present stage in life.
5. Before ending your group session, allocate some time (15-20 min) to pray with and for one another.

## Discussion Questions

1. From your review of the sermon and your reading of the Scripture passage, recap the key points of this sermon.

### **Bible toolkit: Read the Bible within God's Grand Biblical Narrative!**

In the sermon, the Grand Narrative of the Bible was mentioned. This is crucial in grasping the big picture of God's plan and purpose for his creation. While there are several ways to break down the main checkpoints of this narrative, all of them will include the following:

#### **Creation (Genesis 1-2)**

- God created the world, and everything that he made was good.

#### **Fall (Genesis 3)**

- Man disregarded God's rule, and the broken relationship with God results in judgement and a broken world.

#### **Redemption**

- Ultimate redemption for the fall came through Jesus's sacrifice on the cross (Ephesians 1:7)
- Promises: In the Old Testament, God made promises to Adam and Eve (Gen 3:15), to Abraham (Gen 12, 15), to David (2 Sam 7), among others. These promises only found their ultimate fulfilment in Christ.
- Salvation: In the Old Testament, God also saved the Israelites out of Egypt (Exodus 14:30), and brought them back from exile to rebuild the temple (Ezra 1:1 – 2), among many other salvations. However, these did not solve the brokenness of the world. These pointed towards the ultimate salvation brought about by Christ through his incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection.

#### **New Creation (Revelation 21 – 22)**

- While the world is still broken today, we can look forward to a new creation where there will be no more pain, crying or death (Rev 21:4), and all will be made new (Rev 21:5).

### **Christ as the centerpiece and culmination of all the Scriptures**

Knowing the Grand Narrative of the Bible helps us to see Christ as the crux and capstone of all the scriptures (Luke 24:27). This is important so that the bible would not just be an object of study, or a collection of moral lessons, but that our hearts may burn within us as we appreciate and love Christ more deeply (Luke 24:32).

### **When reading any passage of the bible, consider the following questions in order:**

1. What is the genre of the passage? (e.g. narrative, poetry, wisdom literature, legal text, prophecy, letter, discourse, etc?) Which part of the biblical grand narrative is the passage based?
2. What does the passage mean for the original hearers in their stage of the narrative?
3. How does this passage fit into the overall grand narrative framework of Creation-Fall-Redemption-New Creation? How does Christ's incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection shed light on the passage?
4. What does it then mean for us, who are waiting for Christ to come again?

2. In this sermon series, we will be looking at a few specific promises that God made in the Old Testament, which found their ultimate fulfillment in Jesus. These will include passages from Genesis, Psalms, Jeremiah and Isaiah.

- a) How comfortable are you with reading passages from the Old Testament? Are there books, or genres that you find more or less challenging to read?
- b) How does knowing God's grand biblical narrative (see sidebox) help us to see Christ as the centerpiece and culmination of all of the Scriptures?
- c) Compile a list of issues or difficulties people in your group face when reading the Old Testament, and [submit them via this form](#), we'd love to hear from your group.

3. The sermon briefly described various common alternative philosophies or ideologies such as Naturalism and Dualism.

- a) Which of these do you find common in wider society? Which are you tempted to believe?
- b) Speaking for yourself, in what way(s) is the Bible's grand narrative of Creation-Fall-Redemption-New Creation more coherent and compelling than these alternative ideologies?
- c) How does the grand narrative of Scripture help you make better sense of the state of the world today, and to approach life in today's world with certainty and hope?

4. In the sermon, we learnt that even in humanity's Fall, God already provided for a redeemer.

- a) What do you think and feel about this fact?
- b) What impact does this have on your view of God's character and faithfulness?
- c) How will you live in response to this?

### **Prayer Items**

5. Pray for one another, that we would be empowered by God to live out the specific areas of application and transformation raised during the discussion time. Pray also for any needs that were mentioned.