

Small Group and Personal Bible Study

“Far as the Curse is Found . . .”(Rev. 22:3)

Memory Verse: II Corinthians 2:15

For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing,

Daily Reading Plan:

- Day 1 Genesis 3:15-19
- Day 2 Romans 5:12-19
- Day 3 Romans 8:19-24
- Day 4 II Corinthians 2:14-17
- Day 5 II Corinthians 5:11-21

1. Who pronounced the Curse upon Man – Satan or God? Why?

The Bible teaches that Satan’s plan was to twist, ruin and *pervert* what God had made and what He originally planned for us. Satan continues in His destructive work as we live under the Curse of sin. The effects of the Curse were far-reaching – everywhere, everyone, for all time.

2. Where and how do you see people living under the power and presence of the Curse today?

Consider the following areas:

- Relationship with God; our spiritual condition
- Business, Commerce, Employment
- Family relationships
- Learning and Knowledge
- The pursuit of Truth and purpose
- Government
- The Earth
- Our minds and bodies

The Bible teaches that Christ came to destroy the works of the devil and lift the curse of sin

Read the following passages: Ephesians 1:10, 1:20-22, Colossians 2:13-15, Matthew 25:34

3. Is God’s plan to restore, redeem and reconcile mankind a “Plan B,” or is this what He intended all along?

Allow your group to begin to explore God’s control over all dominion and His work in our lives.

4. If the Curse has been lifted, why do so many still live as if it's still around?

The work of Satan is to deceive. He convinces us that we are doomed to live under the curse and so the battle continues even though the victory has been won. At the same time the curse of sin and death remains on those apart from Christ.

5. We hear of many plans and devices available to us that promise to reverse the signs of aging, rid us of disease and pain, make us happier and more fulfilled; restore our bodies to their youthful appearance. Why? Where does all this come from?

I think it is our desire to have life to its fullest and many will try to fulfill that in ways apart from God.

6. In light of our study on the Curse and God’s redemptive plan, why do you think people are so preoccupied and obsessed with restoration, renewal, rest and release in their lives?

I think it is what we need. It is God’s plan and we know we need restoration, renewal, rest, and release.

Putting it into practice: becoming “agents” of blessing in God’s redemptive plan

Look at the following passages that name who or what we are called to be in God’s plan of redemption. Discuss briefly the function of each role mentioned (i.e.: what does an ambassador do? How are we the “fragrance of Christ”?)

II Cor. 2:15, II Cor. 5:18, II Cor. 5:20, I Peter 2:9

Encourage your group members to consider how they might be the fragrance of Christ. Pastor Dave mentioned that through three simple acts we are to be agents of the gospel. This week ask your group, “Who will you...”

- **“Touch”** in Jesus’ name – who do you know that is “untouchable” or has been touched by the Curse?
- **“Speak”** to in Jesus’ name – do you know of someone who needs to hear the good news of the Curse being lifted. Do you need to speak to someone in a more redemptive way?
- **“See”** through the eyes of Christ – Who does no one see? Who needs you to be the eyes of Christ and to look upon them with grace or see them as they could be in Christ, not just who they are?