



TRUSTING GOD

REDEEMING PROMISES OF THE WORD

THE REV. CHARLIE HOLT

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WEEK 1

WEEK 2

WEEK 3

WEEK 4

WEEK 5

WEEK 6

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	6
Using This Study	9
Outline of Each Session.....	11
Daily Scripture Reading Plan	14

<i>Week One - Adam: The Promise of Abundant Life</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Week Two - Noah: The Promise of New Beginnings</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Week Three - Abraham: The Promise of Great Blessing.....</i>	<i>33</i>
<i>Week Four - Moses: The Promise of Abiding Presence</i>	<i>41</i>
<i>Week Five - David: The Promise of the Forever Kingdom</i>	<i>49</i>
<i>Week Six - Jesus: The Promise of Eternal Life.....</i>	<i>57</i>

Appendices.....	66
Small Group Covenant	70
Group Calendar	71
Prayer & Praise Journal	72
Small Group Roster	73

Small Group Leader Helps	75
Leading for the First Time	76
Leadership Training 101.....	77

INTRODUCTION

The redeeming promises of God afford us with abundant reasons to trust God with his plan for our lives. With this being the case, why is trust so difficult? The entire story of the Bible tells of a God who makes covenantal promises to his people. In response, the call is to trust him.

The Apostle Peter writes in his second letter:

“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.”

2 PETER 1:3-4

The Lord has given us everything that we need for life in his most excellent Word. The “precious and great promises” offer us a transformational pathway that leads to glorious life with God. And still we struggle with trust!

In *Trusting God: Redeeming Promises of the Word*, we will explore the six major redeeming promises of God found in his Word. They were made to and through individual people, yet they are applicable to all people. Each week we will reflect on a particular promise. The daily reading assignments will help provide a rich context into the promise. Ideally, the videos and study guide will be answered in the context of a small group of fellow Christians, but you can also embark on this journey as a self-study.



The six promises are:

Adam: The Promise of Abundant Life

Noah: The Promise of New Beginnings

Abraham: The Promise of Great Blessing

Moses: The Promise of Abiding Presence

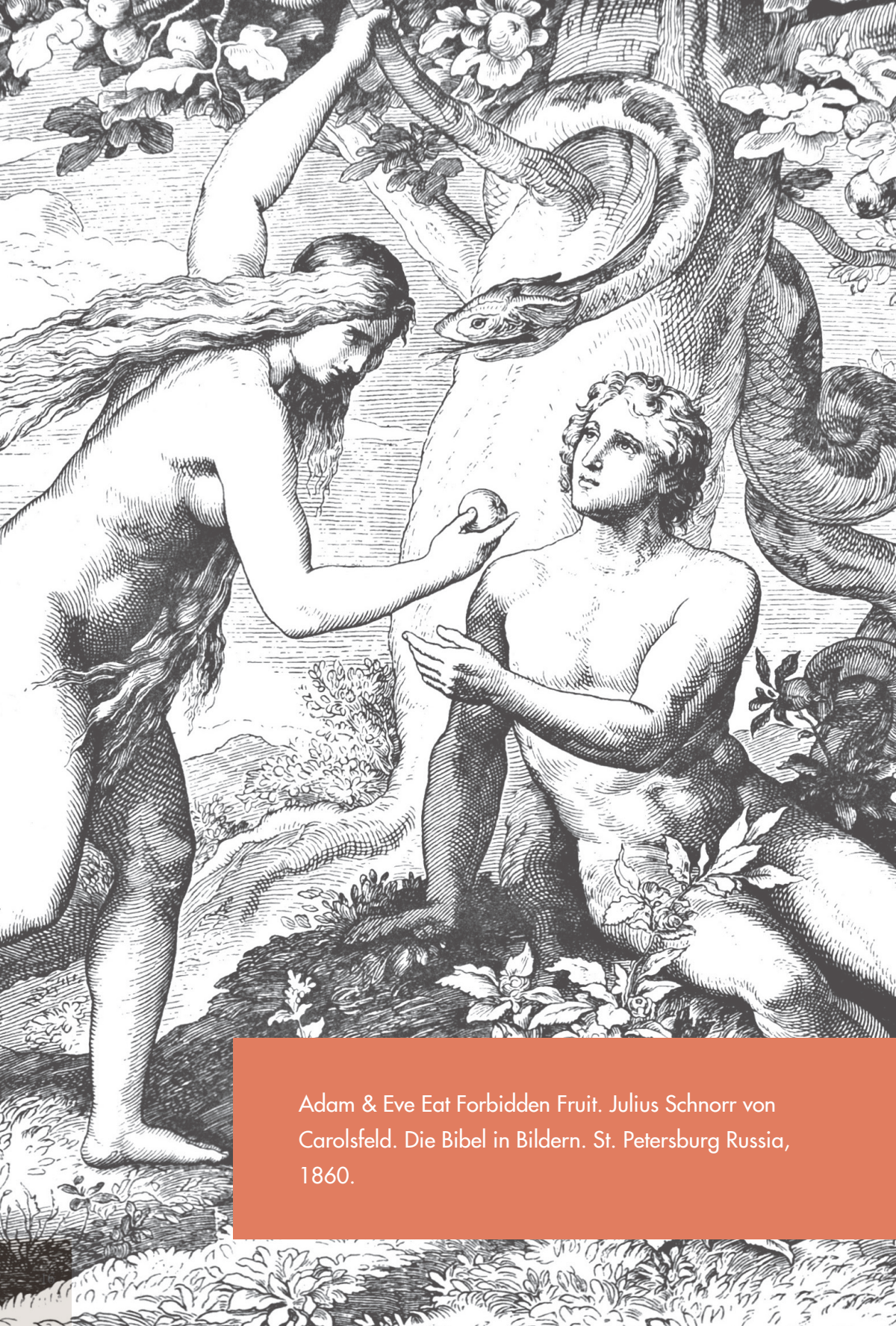
David: The Promise of the Forever Kingdom

Jesus: The Promise of Eternal Life

As you embark on this study as a small group or an individual, I pray that you will marvel in the amazing redeeming promises of God and that your trust in him will grow strong and true. His “precious and great promises” are for you.

I am faithfully yours in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Charlie Holtz



Adam & Eve Eat Forbidden Fruit. Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld. Die Bibel in Bildern. St. Petersburg Russia, 1860.

WEEK 1

ADAM: THE PROMISE OF ABUNDANT LIFE

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, P. 218

KEY VERSE

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” - GENESIS 3:15

INTRODUCTION

The first promise to humanity was expansive. Humanity was given abundant and limitless access to any tree in the Garden of Eden. The first man and woman walked with God in the cool of the morning. Abundant life was made available through the incredible gift of the Tree of Life.

Our first parents were warned not to eat of one tree in the garden—the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. This single stipulation came with a warning:

“The day you eat of it, you will surely die” - GENESIS 2:17

Because of the ignorance of innocence, temptation, and manipulation by Satan, humanity made the choice to forfeit abundant life in exchange for the false promise of intimately knowing good and evil. The image of God was now reflected in a shattered visage. Yet, even in their fall, God made a redeeming promise.

REKINDLE THE PROMISE

1. If you have a new group or new members, take some time to introduce one another and share your hopes for this study.
2. Do you think that most people in our day have trust issues?
3. Do you have a hard time trusting God? Why or why not?

REMEMBER GOD'S PROMISE

Watch the Video

The video teaching can be found at <https://biblestudymedia.com/trustinggod>. If you are hosting this group as an online group and are experiencing diminished quality, you may need to encourage members to take time to watch the video on their own rather than try to play it through your online meeting platform.

Video Notes

The Creation Mandate:

Humanity was given three charges: to reflect God's image, to fruitfully reproduce his image across the earth, and to rule as faithful stewards over his creation. With the mandate came abundance and blessing. God saw all that he made and called it very good.

The Fall:

The first human parents failed to trust God. While ignorance was bliss, intimacy with sin brought a curse. The fall of humanity into sin had devastating consequences. Humans were banished from the abundance of the Garden of Eden. The Tree of Life was no longer accessible. Their lives would be burdened with toilsome labor and painful childbearing. Guilt and shame caused fear and self-hiding from God. Trust was broken.

The Redeeming Promise:

Yet, God provided redeeming promises that would point the way back to abundant life. First, he covered the shame of Adam and Eve by providing the skins from animals, thus foreshadowing the blood sacrifice of Jesus. Second, God made the first announcement of the Gospel: a redeeming promise that the seed of the woman would crush the head of the serpent. One day the war against evil would be over, and a child of Eve would win the battle.

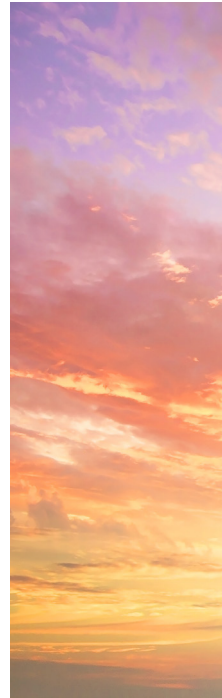
4. What resonated with you from that video teaching? What was a new insight?

READ SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 1:26-31

5. What do you think it means to reflect God's image? What happens to that reflection when we turn our lives away from God?
6. In verse 1:28, "*God blessed them.*" How do you see that blessing made manifest in these verses?
7. How would the fall of humanity into evil impact our stewardship over the creation?

RENEW THE PROMISE

8. Read Genesis 3:15, how would you explain in your own words the redeeming promise of the first Gospel? How does this passage point to Jesus Christ, and what encouragement does this promise give you?
9. The creation mandate has three R's: reflect God's image, reproduce his image, and reign as stewards? Which one of the three R's will become a personal focus for you this week?
10. Jesus said in John 10:10, "*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*" How is this verse manifested in your life today?



PRAYER REQUESTS

You may want to share prayer requests with one another. There's a Prayer & Praise Journal found on p. 72 where you can keep track of your group's requests. Have someone close in prayer or pray the following prayer together:

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, P. 252

