

The Genesis of Good News Paradise Lost, Hope Found Group Leader Guide

RECAP

Pastor Keith Roberson discusses Genesis 3, emphasizing the destructive power of lies, sin's entry into humanity, and our innate need for God. He contrasts trusting in God's goodness versus falling into self-reliance, urging the congregation to fully surrender to God for true freedom and transformation.

GETTING STARTED

Can you recall a time when you believed something that turned out to be false, just like Pastor Keith's story about the Magic Shine product? How did it impact your trust in information or people after that experience?

LIVING OUT THE TRUTH

1. How does the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden illustrate the impact of lies in our relationship with God?
2. Can you recall a time when you felt deceived or misled in a similar manner to the 'Magic Shine' story? How did it affect your view on trust?
3. In what ways do you think lies in our lives today could be compared to the original lie in Genesis?
4. How does the concept that 'sin works by seeding doubt in the human soul that God is actually good' resonate with your personal experiences?
5. Pastor Keith mentions the importance of not lying to maintain relationships. Can you share an example of how honesty has positively impacted one of your relationships?
6. What are some modern-day 'idols' or distractions that you believe are leading people away from trusting in God?
7. Pastor Keith talks about surrendering control to God. What are some areas in your life where you find it most challenging to give up control?

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, we come before You with grateful hearts for the opportunity to gather and reflect on Your Word. We acknowledge that we have fallen short and often try to take control of our own lives. We recognize that every sin starts with a lie, and we pray for discernment to recognize and reject those lies. Help us, Lord, to keep our hearts and minds focused on Your goodness and to trust fully in Your plan for us.

We repent for the times we have doubted Your goodness and tried to live without You. We surrender our lives, our futures, our families, and our burdens to You, knowing that You are in control and You are good. Lord, teach us to rely on You, to seek Your guidance in all that we do, and to trust that Your ways are higher than our ways.

Bless each person here today. Refresh our spirits as we go back to our daily lives, and help us to be a light in this world, reflecting Your love and truth. May we grow in our relationship with You and find hope and freedom through Your grace.

We pray all this in the mighty name of Jesus. Amen.