



Is God's Way Really Better? | Ronnie Johnson | 6.28.20
Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

SHARE

Welcome to Week Two of Echoes of Eden. In this series, we are going back to the beginning because the first few chapters of the Bible answer some of life's biggest questions. This week, Ronnie kept the series going by asking the question, *"is God's way really better?"* But before we go any further, take some time to check in with your Group by having everyone answer these questions:

Rate your week on a scale of 1 to 10. Why did you pick that number?

What has been the most challenging part of this pandemic for you?

What is the best thing that happened to you this week?

What do you feel like God is currently teaching you?

GROW

Read Genesis 3:1-13

What are your thoughts about this story? What do you think the author is trying to communicate?

Why do you think God put the tree of the knowledge and good and evil in the garden?

Sin is one of those church words that comes with a lot of baggage for some of us, but as Ronnie reminded us this week, sin just means missing the mark. In fact, the Greek word for sin is hamartia, which was originally an archery term for missing the bullseye. When Scripture talks about sin, it reminds us that God has a plan for our lives, but so often we miss the mark. God designed this world in a certain way, and when we pay attention to that pattern, life works better.

In the story you just read, Adam and Eve miss the mark. God lays out a plan for them to prosper, but the enemy convinces them there is a better way. Ronnie said it best this week, "the fall was the deliberate choice to not partake in the life that God intended for us." Adam and Eve decided they knew better than God, and as a result, they missed the mark, and things spiraled out of control. As the Proverb says, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death" (Proverb 14:12).

Do you believe that God has a plan and a purpose for our lives? Do you think life works better when we follow God's way instead of our own?

Can you relate to Adam and Eve in this story? Have you ever tried to blaze your own trail instead of trusting God? What was the result?

M O V E

Read Romans 5:18-21

Why do you think this passage is so important? What does it tell us about the big story of the Bible?

We all have moments in our life where we believe our way is better than God's way. We've all followed our own path, tried to blaze our own trail, and ended up losing our way. Fortunately, Jesus came to fix what Adam messed up and make a way for right relationship with God.

Romans 5:19 is so essential, let's re-read it:

“Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous” (Romans 5:19).

When we put our faith in Jesus, we are born again and receive a brand-new identity. That means you are no longer a son or daughter of Adam; you are a child of God. You are righteous because of what Jesus has done for you. This changes everything. And whether you are hearing this for the first time or the 10,000th time, it is true for you today! God’s way truly is better!

Do you ever find it challenging to step into your new identity as a child of God? How would your life look different this week if you actually believed it was true?

What is one practical step you can take this week to help you believe that Jesus’s death and resurrection are sufficient for you?

Take-Home Assignment: Share Your Story

God’s way really is better, and so many of us have stories and examples of this. Our stories (testimonies) are powerful; people need to hear them. Take five minutes this week to think through a time when you realized God’s way is better.

Find one opportunity this week to share that story with someone else. Pray God would open up a moment to share it with a friend, neighbor, or co-worker. Or write it out and just text or email it to someone you think could benefit from reading it.

Your story is powerful! Share it this week!

P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate calls to share more freely.

T O G O

They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. - Revelation 12:11