



**Sermon Study Guide**  
**4/22/18**

*Gods' grace growing in us, among us, and through us, bringing the fullness of Jesus Christ to all of life.*

**Series Theme**

I Choose

**Sermon Title**

Life or Death? (Khor Smith)

**Key Sermon Points**

- The choices we make matter and can lead our lives in significant directions for good or not.
- Like Nigel the bird, we can fall in love with something(s) that can't love us back or offer us life.
- Adam and Eve had everything, including a direct, life giving relationship with God. They chose not to trust that God's way was truly best and took the fruit from the only prohibited tree in the garden.
- Like the carnival claw machine, things of this world do not have the power to deliver what we want from them. They are lifeless rather than life giving.
- Our own efforts do not have the power to deliver the life we desire.
- Adam and Eve did not trust or believe God's resume. They knew that God had the power to create life and the universe from nothing, but chose, ultimately to believe they knew best.
- In the face of God's amazing power and track record, why would Adam and Eve choose death by saying no to God? They believed two critical and crafty lies:
  - You can't trust God. "Did God really say..."
  - "You're naked". (weak, vulnerable, needy)
- God tells us that we have everything we need in Him, sin tells us we are needy.
- We don't consider creation or the animal kingdom to be naked because they are as God created them.
- When we feel desperate or needy we must realize that hope, contentment and life are found only in God's ways, and in Jesus who always followed them.
- The Apostle Paul tells the Church that he has learned the secret of contentment in all circumstances by doing "all things through Christ who gives me strength."

- What will you be holding on to in the moments when you say "I choose...?"

**Scripture:** Genesis 3:8-11, Psalms 8:1, 3-4; Philippians 4:10-13,

### **Personal Application**

1. Make a list of the things you tend to trust or run to rather than God. Pray over them and list some ways to choose against or instead of them.
2. Memorize Philippians 4:11-13 this week. Print it, post it in a prominent place and review it daily...

<sup>11</sup>Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. <sup>12</sup>I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. <sup>13</sup>I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

### **Discussion Questions: (conversations)**

1. How do you think the serpent's two lies- "Did God really say..?" and "you are naked." are reflected in today's culture and in your own experience? Why are they still so tempting?
2. How is the Apostle Paul's experience in Philippians 4:11-13 insightful or helpful to you and your experience?
3. Spend some time considering and listing God's (and Jesus') track record. How might you focus on the power of God rather than the power of "needs" and things?
4. What other lessons or lies from the experience of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3 do you find insightful or helpful as we wrestle against sin?

### **Life Groups**

Use the discussion questions above (and others as you are led) as you study the areas of choices that bring life or death. Is there a way in which your group could pursue more life giving choices together?

### **Children & Families**

Talk with your children about times when they may have chosen to trust their own will or instincts rather than yours. Did those decisions add or subtract life? Have them list or draw pictures of things that God has provided or created that they appreciate.

### **Other Resources**

[Choose the Life: Exploring a Faith that Embraces Discipleship:](#) by Bill Hull and Dallas Willard

True disciples do more than the minimum, explains Hull. They choose the life and commit to bringing Jesus to the lost. They live out their beliefs and walk the walk. Submission shows the doubting world that Christ is embedded in their character.

Choose the Life is a practical tool as accessible to laypeople as ministry leaders. Any church seeking life-changing significance will be challenged by this cutting-edge resource. No hand-holding here, Choose the Life shows church members how to take individual responsibility for both being disciplined and discipling others.

Did GOD Really Say...: Mysteries in Ancient Hebrew from the Garden of Eden: by James C. Woodard

The Garden of Eden is one of the most intriguing yet elusive stories in the entire Bible. Providing the account of man's beginnings, it also raises numerous questions about God's intent for His relationship with the humans which He created to inhabit His amazing heavens and earth. In this account, Pastor Jim Woodard will guide the reader through selected words in that account that reveal mysteries of God's intents only accessible through the original context of the pictographs of Ancient Hebrew. The story of the Garden of Eden in pictographs will give the reader dynamic new insight into why man is born into a dysfunctional relationship with God and hope for what can be done about it.