

Our mandate for integral mission

Vision: to see poverty and suffering as the result of broken relationships in the Fall: between God and us; each other; us and creation and even within ourselves; and to understand God's plan to redeem all things, and our role in that.

Optional video: Introduction to Integral Mission <https://youtu.be/GwVWMORf5OQ> (2:58)

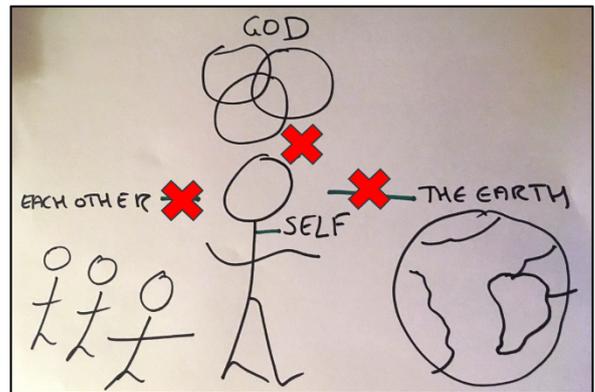
Questions to discuss:

Genesis 1:26-31

1. What do we think the garden of Eden was like to live in before Adam and Eve sinned?
2. What joint responsibility does God give to human beings?

Genesis 3:7-8; 12-19;23

3. What sin did Adam and Eve commit and how did they react afterwards?
4. What were the results of their sin?
5. We can see in this passage that their sin broke relationships at all levels. Where can we see the results of this in our community?
 - Broken relationships between man and God
 - Broken relationships between people (in church/ in community/ community & church)
 - Broken relationships between people and the environment



Colossians 1:19-20

6. What do these verses say about God's desire for the world?
7. What are some examples of reconciliation we have seen, either in our own life or in others?
8. How can we be part of God's plans to 'reconcile all things', in our family, in our community and the natural world?

Act of Love: ask everyone to choose prayerfully two actions to do before we meet next: one to begin restoring one of these three relationships in our family and another to restore one in the wider community.

Going deeper:

- Draw a big outline of a person on flipchart. As you discuss the questions, ask the group to add on the different ways in which each level of relationships are broken. In another colour, then draw a cross above and draw/ write the ways in which it restores these.

Notes for facilitator: see over page

Notes for facilitator:

- *God creates mankind and gives them responsibility to take care of the world.*
- *The garden was full of animals and fruits – always enough to eat – all their needs provided for; it was 'good'; there was a perfect relationship between God, Adam and Eve; they felt at home, safe, innocent and free of shame.*
- *God created man to fill the earth, to subdue the earth (the Hebrew word 'kabash' used here for 'subdue' is used only in relation to subduing the land, calming it to achieve its purpose, bringing shalom), to rule over every living creature (the Hebrew word 'radah' used here for 'rule' means to reign like a King; to be responsible for and take care of).*
- *When they ate the apple, they put what they wanted above what God wanted, thinking they knew better than Him – they refused to follow His plan for their lives.*
- *After they ate the apple, they were ashamed, hid from God and blamed each other.*
- *It resulted in:*
 - *For women – pain in childbirth; being ruled over by husband*
 - *For men – cursed ground; difficulty in farming/ work*
 - *For both – banished from Garden; less intimate relationship with God and each other*
- *The Colossians verses show that God wants all things to be reconciled. Jesus came to bring everything in this world back into harmony – to fix those three relationships*
- *Reconciliation definition: to bring into harmony; restore peaceful relationship*

God created people to live in harmony with him, each other and the natural world. Adam and Eve's sin broke those relationships, leading to poverty and injustice. God wants to reconcile all things and calls His church to engage in integral mission – the ministry of overcoming poverty and injustice by restoring these broken relationships.