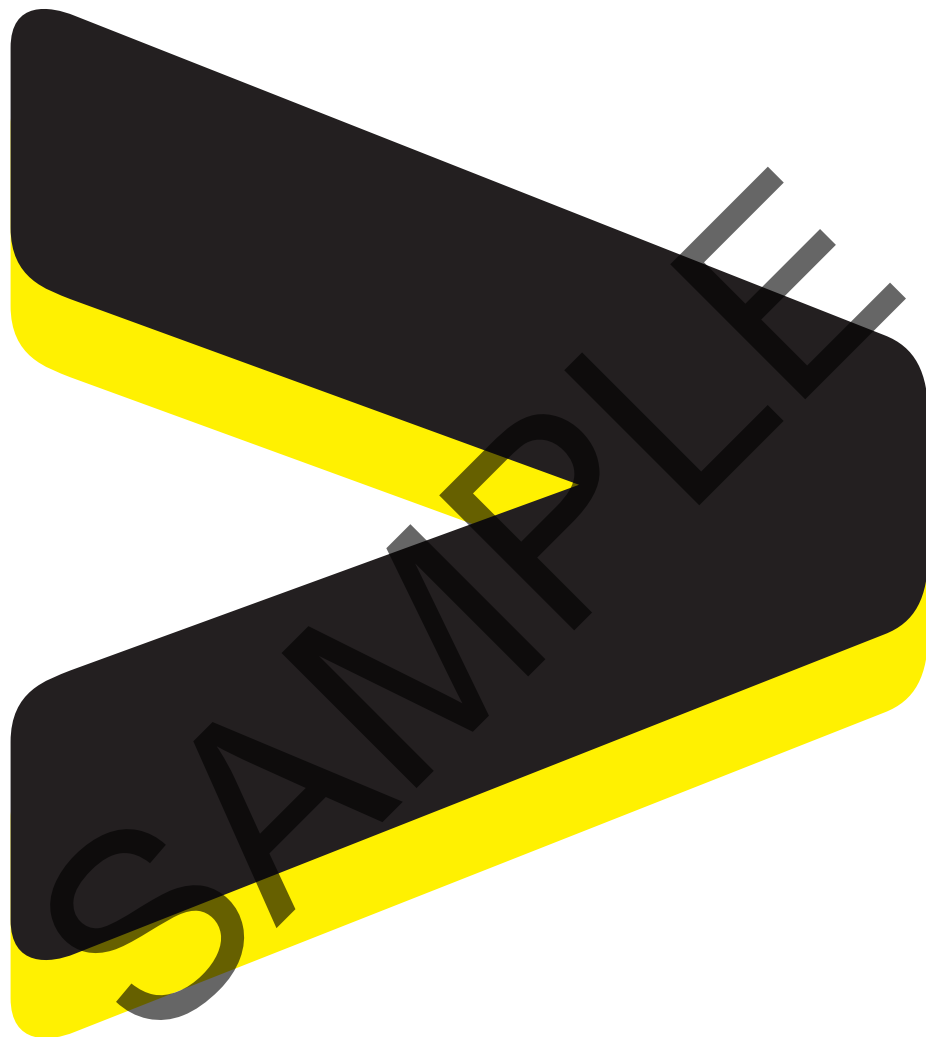


NAME



**GREATER THAN:
LIFE BEYOND
THE SEVEN
DEADLY SINS**

**I HAVE BEEN CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST AND I NO
LONGER LIVE, BUT CHRIST LIVES IN ME. THE LIFE I
NOW LIVE IN THE BODY, I LIVE BY FAITH IN THE SON OF
GOD, WHO LOVED ME AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME.**
GALATIANS 2:20

The seven deadly sins is an old concept that has carried throughout history. While there is no direct link to these sins as a concept in the bible, we can see through different parts of the bible where they are mentioned. Although our culture has changed substantially since the list of seven deadly sins were devised, there is no doubt that they are still prevalent today. With this in mind, these sins, just like every other sin, is rebellion against God.

We are sinful. All of us. We all disobey God and do our own thing. A big part about this series is the two words that come before the sin... Life beyond. We know as Christians that if we trust in Jesus, he will take away our sins and make us new. We know that there is life beyond sin. That life comes from Jesus. So this term as we think about this more, let us remember that Jesus gives us life beyond sin and that there is hope to overcome sin in our lives.

LIFE; BEYOND DEATH
GALATIANS 2:20

LIVING; BEYOND DEATH
TITUS 2:11-14

LIFE; BEYOND PRIDE
GENESIS 2:15-17
GENESIS 3:1-19

LIFE; BEYOND ANGER
GENESIS 4:1-16

LIFE; BEYOND ENVY
GENESIS 37:1-36

LIFE; BEYOND LUST
2 SAMUEL 11

LIFE; BEYOND GLUTTONY
AMOS 6:1-7

LIFE; BEYOND SLOTH
1 CORINTHIANS 15:58

LIFE; BEYOND GREED
LUKE 19:1-10

TWO TREES

SERIES METAPHOR

As we think about this term, it is helpful to think about the metaphor of two trees.

A dead tree and a living tree.

The dead tree represents our old life. It represents all the things that we used to do that led to death. It represents our idols, our sin, our rebellion and our old way to doing things. This dead tree, is a tree that represents the life of someone who does not follow Jesus.

The living tree represents our new life in Jesus. When we come to trust in Jesus as our saviour and follow him, our life is like a living, breathing, fruitful tree. When we follow Jesus and live for him, our lives should bear fruit that is in the likeness of Jesus. This is the fruit of Spirit. When we trust in Jesus we are filled with the Spirit and when we are filled with the Spirit our lives show the ourworkings of a person who lives for Jesus.

With this metaphor it is important to remember a few things.

1. Jesus alone is the one who gave us our salvation. There is no way we can save ourselves from our sin or 'plant' the new tree. Salvation comes from the death of Jesus on a cross.
2. The tree isn't just a tree that produces one type of fruit. There isn't just a Tree of Kindness or a Tree of Joy but all the fruits come from the one tree. Often we think of the fruits of the Spirit as seperate but the more we study God's word, the more we see that they are in intertwined together and come from the Spirit.
3. The two trees are like two choices in our lives. Sometimes we go back to the old tree and act like it can produce fruit (i.e we are lustful) and sometimes we go to the living tree and with the help of the Spirit, we produce fruit. Our challenge is to always go to the living tree and put to death the dead tree and stopping acting like it can produce fruit.

With all this in mind, why not wrestle with this in your small group as you think about what it means for you.



BIG IDEA REAL LIFE IS ABOUT GROWING THE LOVING CHARACTER OF JESUS, THE SINFUL LIFE IS UGLY AND SELFISH. IN JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION WE DIE TO SELFISHNESS AND RISE TO NEW LIFE IN JESUS' SPIRIT.

WHEN HAVE YOU
SEEN SOMETHING OR
SOMEONE TRYING TO
TELL YOU WHAT THE
GOOD LIFE LOOKS
LIKE THIS WEEK?

NAME A TV
SHOW THAT
SELLS US THE
GOOD LIFE?

READ GALATIANS 2:20

WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE SAY ABOUT THE GOOD LIFE?

THINK ABOUT SOMEONE WHO IS LIVING
THE GOOD LIFE IN JESUS. WHAT IS IT
ABOUT THEM THAT MADE YOU CHOOSE
THEM?

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE GOOD LIFE IS?

JESUS IS GREATER THAN THE GOOD
LIFE BECAUSE...

WHICH PASSAGE
IN THE BIBLE
BEST DESCRIBES
WHAT GOD HAS
DONE TO SECURE
LIFE FOR US?

WEEK ONE

THE EXISTENCE OF AN
INDIVIDUAL HUMAN
BEING OR ANIMAL.
DEFINITION

LIFE BEYOND DEATH

IF I WAS TO RATE MY LIFE OUT OF TEN. WHAT WOULD IT BE?
WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP THIS RATING?

PRAY

MYSELF

MY GROUP

BIG IDEA REAL LIFE GROWS GOOD FRUIT AS WE WALK WITH JESUS BY HIS SPIRIT; THE SINFUL LIFE GROWS BAD FRUIT AS WE WALK AWAY FROM JESUS. THROUGH JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION WE DIE TO BAD FRUIT AND RISE TO THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT.

READ THE FOLLOWING QUOTE FROM THE BOOK 'DEATH BY LIVING' BY N.D WILSON.

He (God) gives without ceasing. Even when we fell, when our first parents defied Him, the first he gave them was an end, mortality, a path to resurrection and the promise of a guide... and then he clothed them.

N.D WILSON SUGGESTS THAT DEATH IS A BLESSING FROM GOD, ESPECIALLY WHEN WE FOLLOW JESUS. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THIS?

N.D WILSON SUGGESTS THAT WHEN WE LIVE, KNOWING THAT WE WILL DIE, OUR LIVES WILL BE MORE FULFILLED. WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT MEANS?

A FRUITFUL LIFE IS A LIFE THAT LOOKS LIKE JESUS AND SHOWS EVIDENCE OF THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT. HOW IS A FULFILLED LIFE AND A FRUITFUL LIFE SIMILAR?

JESUS IS



OUR SIN



creek road
YOUTH