

East of Eden – Returning to God

Week of January 25, 2026

READ:

Genesis 1-2

KEY POINTS:

- Our worldview shapes how we experience God and the world - We all see life through a filter. When our worldview drifts, it can pull us *east of Eden*—living outside of God’s presence instead of in step with Him.
 - God sees the world as worth engaging - From the very beginning, God loved His creation. Even in a broken world, God’s posture is not to withdrawal but love and redeem.
 - God Himself exists in perfect community - Father, Son, and Spirit have always lived in relationship. Community isn’t something God created later, it’s who He is.
 - We are created in God’s image for community, not isolation - Humanity reflects God’s relational nature. From marriage, to families, to God’s people, unity is God’s design.
 - Isolation pulls us east of Eden; community draws us back - The Gospel calls us to step *into* relationships, not away from them.
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QUESTIONS:

- How would you describe your current view of the world—hopeful, cautious, suspicious, disengaged? What has shaped that?
- How does God’s view of the world, being broken but worth redeeming, effect of we interact with others? Read (John 3:16–17).
- What stands out to you about the idea that God Himself is community? How does that shape the way we think about relationships?
- Where do you notice yourself drifting toward isolation, or being tempted to “step back” instead of “step in”?

LIFE APPLICATION

- Pray for one person and look for a way to step toward them
- Initiate a meaningful conversation you've been avoiding
- Show up consistently, even when it's inconvenient
- Engage your group beyond the weekly meeting (text, coffee, prayer)

PRAYER:

Dear Lord,

Thank You for being a God who is not distant, but relational. From the very beginning, You have existed in perfect community, and You created us in Your image to share in that gift.

When isolation, fear, or distraction pull us away from You and from one another, we pray that You remind us of the reason You created us. Help us to see the world the way You see it: not as something to withdraw from, but as something You deeply love and are actively redeeming.

Teach us to step in when it would be easier to step back. Give us courage to pursue real relationships, humility to be known, and grace to love others as You have loved us.

Shape our worldview so that it reflects Your heart. Form us into a community that brings You glory and draws people toward Your presence.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.