

East of Eden – Turning West

Week of February 22, 2026

(BE PREPARED TO TAKE COMMUNION)

READ:

Hebrews 9 & 10

KEY POINTS:

- Jesus is our Great High Priest – In the Old Testament, only the high priest could enter the Most Holy Place, to be in God’s presence. Now, because of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross, access is now given to all who believe in Him.
- His blood establishes a greater covenant – The old covenant reminded people of their sin. God’s new covenant through Jesus removes our sin. The cross reveals both the seriousness of our sin and the depth of God’s grace.
- We must choose to draw near – Hebrews gives us an invitation to draw near to God: “Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and full assurance of faith.”
– Hebrews 10:22

Some of us still live as though we are still under the old covenant. We still are more focused on our shame, guilt, and unconfessed sin. Give all of that to Jesus, who created a new covenant, and step into His grace with a sincere heart and full of assurance of faith.

QUESTIONS:

- In what ways do people today minimize or redefine sin?
- What keeps believers from fully drawing near to God? Is it guilt, fear, shame, or something else?
- What ways in your life have you been drifting “east of Eden”?
- What would it look like for you to surrender those ways to God, and “turn west, going back to Eden” this week?

LIFE APPLICATION

- Quiet Moment with God - Give everyone 2 quiet minutes. Invite them to (privately):
 - Identify where they have drifted
 - Confess these sins to God (be specific....name the sin)
 - Thank Jesus for His new covenant
 - Pray to God for the courage to draw closer to Him
- The Guilt Breaker – Sometimes, it is our own shame that is keeping us from a better relationship with God. If shame is keeping you from drawing nearer to God:
 - Read Psalm 103:11-12 aloud
 - Replace “our transgressions” with “my transgressions.”
 - Out loud, thank God for being faithful and just, and removing “my transgressions.”
- It’s not Earned – Stop living as if you have to earn God’s grace; it is freely given to all who confess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.
- Take Communion – This week, take communion as a group. Remember how we were once under the old covenant of our sin, and now we live in grace, by Jesus’ new covenant through His blood.

PRAYER:

Dear Lord,

We confess that we have drifted east of Eden. We minimize sin and forget the cost.

Thank you for sending us Jesus, our Great High Priest. Thank you that His blood established a new covenant and that we can have a personal relationship with God.

Give us courage to draw near. Remove our guilt, shame, and fear. Help us to live like people who are in Your presence.

In Jesus’ name,
Amen.