

FORETOLD

1. THE GARDEN

What stood out to you most from the talk on Sunday? Have you ever thought of the coming of Jesus being foretold right from the dawn of time?

Read Genesis 1.1-2 and Genesis 3

- Why is it significant that the first word of creation is not power (bara) but a God of relational community and love (Elohim)?
- If we truly believed that love is the foundation of the universe, how differently would we live our lives? What would we prioritise? What would we be less worried about?
- Why did God provide mankind with a choice in the garden? Is it loving to give people the opportunity to fail and cause themselves such pain?

Verse 15 says that the offspring of the woman will 'crush' the head of the serpent, and the serpent will 'strike' his heel. These two words are actually the same in the original translation.

- Why is it important that mankind's saviour should be a man himself, born of a woman?
- Why do you think the idea of Jesus being a sacrifice is introduced before the idea that he will be resurrected?
- How does this message of love finding a way impact the way we think about Christmas? How can we spread this message of hope?

BIG IDEA: The birth of Jesus was foretold from the beginning of time. God is love and created the universe in love and out of love. In Jesus, love finds a way to save us from sin and shame.

Take time to pray together. Share some of your hopes for this Christmas season. Talk about the people you love who need to hear this message. Who can you invite to Metro Carols? Pray for them by name and pray for each other, for wisdom, sensitivity and opportunity to show and share the message of love.