

SERMON SERIES

DISCUSSION GUIDE

STORY OF FAITH: WEEK 3

Genesis chapter 3 is the point where sin enters the Story of Faith. This chapter describes what is often called “The Fall,” and it is here we first learn about the presence and awful consequences of sin. Yet we cannot fully understand Genesis 3:6-7 without going back to Genesis 2:17 and reading about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that God placed in the garden--but commanded them not to eat. Remember, what you believe about God colors everything else in your life, including how you see this story. Why did God put the one thing Adam and Eve couldn't have right in front of them? Was He being cruel and taunting? Or was He protecting them like a parent telling a child not to touch the hot stove? Unfortunately, children often disobey, and Adam and Eve chose to ignore the boundary. Sadly, the consequences were devastating... for them and for us!

**“SO WHEN THE WOMAN SAW THAT THE TREE WAS GOOD FOR FOOD, AND THAT IT WAS A DELIGHT TO THE EYES, AND THAT THE TREE WAS TO BE DESIRED TO MAKE ONE WISE, SHE TOOK OF ITS FRUIT AND ATE, AND SHE ALSO GAVE SOME TO HER HUSBAND WHO WAS WITH HER, AND HE ATE.
(GENESIS 3:6 ESV)**

The serpent tricked Eve into eating the fruit by convincing her that both she and Adam would be like God as a result, knowing good from evil. So, both she and her husband disobeyed God's command and fell for the lie. Afterward, they were ashamed and hid. And then God showed up. Judgment was swift. God is righteous and just and cannot tolerate sin, so there had to be consequences for their actions. Note: God will always judge sin. Yet even in their punishment, we see God's grace and mercy. He would not let sin have the last word and He would not leave them without hope. This hope would come through their offspring (see 3:15). In one sense, the rest of the Bible is the outworking of this verse as the spiritual battle between humanity and Satan runs throughout. But in the end, the coming Messiah will crush the serpent's head!

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GENESIS 3:1-15 ESV

- 1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?”
- 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,
- 3 but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ”
- 4 But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.
- 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”
- 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.
- 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.
- 8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.
- 9 But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”
- 10 And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”
- 11 He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”
- 12 The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”
- 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”
- 14 The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.
- 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

DISCUSSION GUIDE QUESTIONS

on your own, with family, or with your small group

Read Genesis 2:15-17. Who was the original command given to? And where was Eve at that time? What does this say about Adam’s role in their sin?

God told Adam they would die if they ate from the forbidden tree. But they actually lived for many more years, so was God lying? Or was He referring to a different kind of death? Explain.

Study the serpent’s lie to Eve in Gen. 3:4-5. Why were his words so enticing to her (and us)? What is the source of this lie and why does God hate it so much? See Proverbs 8:13 and James 4:6.

In 3:7-11, they cover and hide from God. Can you relate? Yet can we ever truly hide from an all-knowing and all-present God? (see Psalm 139:1-12)? What are the implications of this for us?

You need to be aware that Satan (the serpent) is a very real enemy who knows your weaknesses. Why do you suppose the serpent went after Eve in this way? And where are you most vulnerable to sin?

In Gen. 3:21 they went from fig leaves to garments of skin. Why? How? Read Hebrews 9:22 and explain what happened.