

## **Genesis 3**

**Pray for your time together in God's Word!**

**Study Summary:** This study focuses on the deceptiveness of sin/Satan and how we often follow the pattern of Adam and Eve. We justify our actions, avoid facing God, and deny our fault. Do we truly hate sin as we ought?

**Read passage out loud as a group.** Option: Give group 3 minutes to look at the passage on their own.

### **Genesis 3: 1-7 (NIV)**

**1** Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

**2** The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, **3** but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

**4** "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. **5** "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

**6** When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. **7** Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

**Ask the Group:** In the first verse, Satan starts his deception by casting doubt into Eve's mind about God's command. What truths about God, or commands of God, do you hear people often question or doubt?

*Leaders' Note: Use caution in this discussion so as to prevent it from becoming an argument along political lines, etc.*

**Ask the Group:** In verse four, Satan adds another layer of deception – he breeds discontentment in Eve. How does he accomplish this?

*Possible Answers: He makes her feel like she's missing out on something; that God is holding back things that would be good for her.*

- **Ask the Group:** In what ways have you seen discontentment creep up on you or those close to you?

**Ask the Group:** In verse six, we see the thoughts of Eve as she justifies the sin she is about to commit – things that in themselves are not sinful. What are some common scenarios or experiences you've had yourself where sin is readily justified?

- **Ask the Group:** Put yourself in Eve's place....what do you think she is feeling as she starts to justify eating the fruit?  
*Possible Answers: That she's being rational, a sense of entitlement, some lingering guilt or apprehension.*

**Ask the Group:** What mode of deception are you most attacked with in your life – doubting the truths or commands of God, falling into discontentment, or justifying your sin?

- **Ask the Group:** What tools can you use to fight against these deceptions?

*Possible Answers: Accountability from those who speak into your life and/or your small group; memorizing specific Scripture to fight with the Truth; etc.*

**Read passage out loud as a group.** Option: Give group 3 minutes to look at the passage on their own.

### **Genesis 3:8-13 (NIV)**

**8** Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. **9** But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

**10** He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

**11** And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

**12** The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

**13** Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

**Ask the Group:** Why do you think Adam and Eve were hiding from God?

*Possible Answers: Because they were ashamed of their sin; because they knew they did wrong and were afraid to face God; because they were ashamed of their nakedness (perhaps they didn't fully understand their sin and were overwhelmed with realizing they were naked).*

**Ask the Group:** In verse 11, God directly confronts Adam with his sin. What does Adam's response reveal about his attitude?

*Possible Answer: Adam does not repent of his sin, rather he avoids confession and places blame on Eve.*

**Ask the Group:** In verse 13, God confronts Eve. What does her response reveal about her attitude?

*Possible Answer: Eve realizes she has been deceived. However, she doesn't take responsibility for her sin and blames the serpent.*

**Ask the Group:** Why is it sometimes difficult for people, or yourself, to own up to their mistakes (sin) when they are confronted?

*Possible Answer: We want to maintain our “image” in front of others. We don't like to acknowledge when we've failed. We all have a desire to be 'righteous' and come across as better, so it's difficult to admit our sin because we believe our confession reveals that we are terrible people.*

**Read passage out loud as a group.** Option: Give group 3 minutes to look at the passage on their own.

**Genesis 3: 14-24 (NIV)**

**14** So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,

"Cursed are you above all livestock  
and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly  
and you will eat dust  
all the days of your life.

**15** And I will put enmity  
between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will crush your head,  
and you will strike his heel."

**16** To the woman he said,

"I will make your pains in childbearing very severe;  
with painful labor you will give birth to children.  
Your desire will be for your husband,  
and he will rule over you."

**17** To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,'

"Cursed is the ground because of you;  
through painful toil you will eat food from it  
all the days of your life.

**18** It will produce thorns and thistles for you,  
and you will eat the plants of the field.

**19** By the sweat of your brow  
you will eat your food until you return to the ground,  
since from it you were taken; for dust you are  
and to dust you will return."

**20** Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

**21** The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. **22** And the Lord God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." **23** So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. **24** After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

**Ask the Group:** What do the curses from God tell us about God, us, and sin?

*Possible Answer: God sets boundaries for our own good, God is just, and God cannot tolerate sin.*

*We suffer when we go outside of God's command; sin irrevocably damaged our intimacy with God; sin may appear attractive at first, but its devastation is unimaginable.*

**Ask the Group:** Amidst their falling out, what glimpses of grace do you see God extend to Adam and Eve?

*Possible Answers:*

*- Despite the curses and death just proclaimed over Adam, the woman is still graciously named Eve - "the mother of all the living,"*

*- God clothes Adam and Eve with animal skins, shedding the first blood of animals in order to cover their nakedness (See Hebrews 10:1-14 – it may be worth pointing out the parallel to shedding the blood of Christ in order to clothe us with his righteousness)*

*- God banishes Adam and Eve from the garden so that they do not take from the Tree of Life and live forever in their fallen state. God had a better plan in mind for us, salvation through Jesus Christ.*

- **Ask the Group:** How have you seen God's grace in your life when you've sinned?

**Ask the Group:** John Owen: "There is not a day but sin foils or is foiled, prevails or is prevailed upon." What are your thoughts on this quote? Do you think this statement is true?

**Ask the Group:** To what extent do you feel and believe the reality that Satan is daily seeking to deceive you, and that the consequences of sin are devastating? Do you **hate** sin?

**Ask the Group:** What is our community application of this passage?

*Leaders' Note: You may choose to create your own application question as a group based on your discussion, or highlight a question from this study.*