

Small Group Handout - Genesis 3

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.

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?

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

- In what ways have you seen discontentment creep up on you or those close to you?

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?

- Put yourself in Eve’s place....what do you think she is feeling as she starts to justify eating the fruit?

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?

- What tools can you use to fight against these deceptions?

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.”

Why do you think Adam and Eve were hiding from God?.

In verse 11, God directly confronts Adam with his sin. What does Adam’s response reveal about his attitude?

In verse 13, God confronts Eve. What does her response reveal about her attitude?

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

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.

What do the curses from God tell us about God, us, and sin?

Amidst their falling out, what glimpses of grace do you see God extend to Adam and Eve?

- How have you seen God's grace in your life when you've sinned?

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?

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?

What is our community application of this passage?