

Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 3: September 27 – October 4

Genesis 3

At the end of Genesis 1, we saw that all of God’s creation was “very good.” In Genesis 2, we saw a detailed description of paradise on earth. So why is our world so messed up today? Genesis chapter 3 gives us the answer. Here we discover how sin and suffering came into the world. However, it is also in Genesis chapter 3 that we find hope for this messed up world. The good news is proclaimed in the prophecy about the “seed of the woman” crushing the serpent’s head. James Smith writes,

In the literary treasures of the ancient Near East no close parallel to the Fall narrative of Genesis 3 appears... No fall was possible in pagan mythology because man was created evil by evil gods. He never experienced a state of innocence from which to fall. The situation, however, is quite different in the Bible. The Fall of man from an original state of purity is the silent hypothesis of the whole Biblical doctrine of sin and redemption. The historicity of Genesis 3 is vital to the Christian view.¹

Read Genesis 3:1-7

1. How does verse 1 describe the serpent?
2. What did the serpent ask the woman in verse 1? How did his question twist the original command that God gave in Genesis 2:16-17?
3. How did the woman answer the serpent? (3:2-3)

Notice that we don’t read anything about Adam until we get to verse 6 where it says that he was “with her.” God gave Adam the command not to eat the forbidden fruit before Eve was created (Gen. 2:17). Adam may have told Eve about the command but he should have also done something to help her out of this situation. God gave Adam (and all husbands) the responsibility of being the leader and protector of the family. Unfortunately, Adam failed to step up and lead. Tremper Longman observes,

¹ James Smith, *The Pentateuch* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1996), 65.

² Tremper Longman, *The Story of God Bible Commentary: Genesis* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2016), 63.

We should remember that Adam was charged to guard/protect the garden (2:15). Right from the start, when the serpent first appeared, Adam should have been right there commanding this creature to get out of the garden. But Adam remains silent and does nothing.²

4. What did the serpent say in verse 4?

We know from Revelation 12:9 and 20:2 that the serpent in Genesis 3 was really the devil in disguise. The Bible warns Christians to be prepared to resist the attacks and schemes of Satan (2 Cor. 2:11; Eph. 6:11; 1 Peter 5:8). Deception is one of the many strategies used by Satan here in Genesis 3 (John 8:44).

5. Why did the serpent say that God did not want the woman to eat the forbidden fruit? (3:5)
6. What are the thoughts and the actions in verse 6 that led to sin?

Derek Kidner notes,

The pattern of sin runs right through the act, for Eve listened to a creature instead of the Creator, followed her impressions against her instructions, and made self-fulfillment her goal. This prospect of material, aesthetic and mental enrichment (6a) seemed to add up to life itself; the world still offers it (1 John 2:16). But man’s lifeline is spiritual, namely God’s word and the response of faith (Deut. 8:3; Hab. 2:4); to break it is death.³

7. What happened when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit? (3:7)

Read Genesis 3:8-19

8. What did Adam and Eve do when they heard God walking in the garden? (3:8)
9. What did God do in verse 9?
10. Why was Adam trying to hide from God? (3:10)

³ Derek Kidner, *Genesis* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2008), 73.

11. What questions did God ask in verse 11? Why does an all-knowing God ask questions?

12. How did Adam respond in verse 12?

13 How did the woman respond to God in verse 13?

Dennis Prager writes,

Blaming others for wrongs we have done is literally as old as humanity, Adam blamed Eve (and implicitly God); and Eve...blamed the snake. Neither took personal responsibility. As psychiatrist Dr. Abraham Twerski puts it, "Human beings need four things: air, food, drink, and someone to blame."⁴

14. What did God say to the serpent? (3:14-15)

15. How is verse 15 a prophecy of Jesus?

16. What did God say to the woman in verse 16?

17. What did God say to Adam? (3:17-19)

Read Genesis 3:20-24

18. What name did Adam give to the woman in verse 20? Why?

19. What did God do for Adam and Eve in verse 21?

20. Why did God send Adam and Eve out from the Garden of Eden? (3:22-24)

21. What do these verses tell us about temptation and how to resist it?

22. Why are people attracted to do what God has forbidden?

23. What are some popular lies that Satan tries to get us to believe these days?

24. How can you become wiser about the schemes of the devil?

⁴ Dennis Prager, *The Rational Bible: Genesis* (Washington, DC: Regnery Faith, 2019), 53.

Sermon Notes 9/27/20

"Paradise Lost"

How should we respond to Genesis chapter 3?

1. Beware of _____.

Genesis 3:1

Genesis 3:2-3

Genesis 3:4-5

Genesis 3:6-7

2. _____ and _____ with God.

Genesis 3:8

Genesis 3:9-10

Genesis 3:11-13

3. Trust Jesus as _____ and _____.

Genesis 3:14-15

Genesis 3:16-19

Genesis 3:20-21

Genesis 3:22-24

After Eden



⁵ Adjusting from paradise to life in a cursed world, Adam & Eve would often update each other with new discoveries.