



Growth Group Curriculum
Week 2 – January 16, 2022 – Genesis 3:1-13

Growth groups are one of the best and easiest ways to find community at church. Thank you for loving and caring for each other.

All started off so well in Genesis 1 and 2, and then all of a sudden, the serpent, whom we are told is crafty, appears on the scene. Genesis 3 is not interested in telling the story of the origin of evil, but instead painting a picture of human sin and guilt. The serpent is the crafty adversary and is consistent with the role of the serpent in Job 1-2 where he tries to malign the character of God.

It is interesting that the serpent does not try to deny the reality of God. Instead, the serpent seeks to discredit God and wonders what kind of God would keep Eve from eating from the tree. The serpent says that surely Adam and Eve will not die, that their eyes will be opened, and that they will become like God knowing good and evil. The serpent, as the devil always does, overpromises and under delivers. He talks about what Adam and Eve will get, but he does not mention what they will lose.

Yet, Eve wants wisdom and so does Adam. The tree's fruit would bring "wisdom" which is likely equated with the tempter's promise of obtaining divine knowledge. It would bring her sight and insight, and also success. Her sin is the acquisition of wisdom independently of God. She reaches beyond the boundary that God had placed in front of her and Adam.

The result is shame and nakedness and going into hiding. They try and cover their own nakedness and God comes looking for them walking in the evening breeze. The term "walking with God" has connotations of relationship. You walk with people you know. God wants to walk with Adam and Eve and be with them and thus he comes looking for them. Yet, they have eaten from the tree and now they hide amongst the trees.



Adam and Eve begin to play the blame game. Eve is blamed. God is blamed. The serpent is blamed. What is interesting to note is that God only speaks to Adam and Eve. God wants to help redeem them, but he has no question for the serpent. He only has a curse for the serpent. God will clothe them and cover their nakedness. This “covering” will be completed when Jesus gives his life on the cross and “covers” our sins forever.

Exploring the Text

GENESIS 3:1-13

3 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. **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.”

Questions

If you are answering these questions alone, we would urge you to try journaling. Rather than just pondering the answers, try writing them out along with a prayer to the Lord.

- 1) Share about a time you tried to take a shortcut and it did not turn out well.
- 2) What did the serpent and Eve say about God and His commands, in verses 1-5, that create confusion and helped lead to Adam and Eve’s disobedience? (Compare to what was told to Adam in Genesis 2:16-17)
- 3) There seems to be a lot of confusion (both intentional and perhaps unintentional) in our own society. What are some of the confusing messages that you are hearing today? How do you stay focused on the things of God, in a society that seems to offer lots of confusing messages?



- 4) One of the questions that is often asked by people who don't believe in Jesus is, "why does a 'good' God allow all this bad stuff to happen?" The serpent likewise seems to be questioning God's goodness. How do you answer the question about a "good God" allowing bad stuff to happen, or a "good God" who doesn't seem to stop certain things from happening?
- 5) The tree of knowledge of good and evil is placed in the middle of the garden where Adam and Eve would regularly see it. Why do you think God placed it in the middle of the garden? What lesson was he trying to teach them?
- 6) In Genesis 3:8-9, God goes looking for Adam and Eve. God wants to continue to be in relationship with them in spite of their sin. Share about a time when you felt like God came looking for you, when you felt like you had been abandoned.
- 7) As a follow up to the previous question, have you ever felt like you have been in a situation where God did not come looking for you? How did that make you feel? How did you persevere?
- 8) What lesson do you think God was trying to teach, by prohibiting Adam and Eve from eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil? How does that connect with the concept of wisdom?

