



Beginnings

2/20/22

Genesis 3

1. In Genesis 3, the serpent sows a seed of doubt in the woman's mind that God does not have the best intentions for them. Read Genesis 2:15-17 and 3:1-5, and discuss the following questions.

**Does the serpent lie?

**How does the serpent twist God's words?

2. In the following verses, we read how the two humans ate fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This act represents the humans' desire for the knowledge that only God has at this moment, the knowledge of what is good and what is not. Read Genesis 3:6-7 and discuss these questions:

**What are the events that led to the action of eating the fruit/taking the knowledge?

**In light of these events, what is the real sin that the man and woman commit (is it a thought? an action?)

**Why do you think the two humans didn't realize they were naked until they understood what was good and evil?

3. Drew talked about the identity of the serpent. Later in the Bible, we learn that this character is viewed as the satan, or "the accuser" in Hebrew (note that the talking serpent accuses God of withholding good from the humans in v. 5).

**What is your belief about the spiritual world?

**How do you think the satan and his minions interact with us? For example, do they cause flat tires, or earthquakes, or evil thoughts to enter your mind (or all three)?

For further discussion: Drew said, "The enemy wants you to doubt God's word." He also referenced a quote from Matt Chandler, when he said, "God's commands are for our protection. They are not a killjoy, but are meant for you to flourish."

**Have you ever been unsure that God really has your best intentions in mind? Perhaps a tragic experience, period of loneliness, self-doubt, etc.

**If you went through a time like this, and are willing to share about it, what did you do? Did you take matters into your own hands, or did you ask God to help you?

Since Drew did not talk much about 3:14-24, the following discussion questions are considered extra, and deal more with biblical interpretation instead of modern application. Discuss them if you have time or desire to go deeper.

4. Genesis 3:14-19 are the results of the humans' sin. Read these verses and discuss the following questions:

**What is actually cursed? (hint: there are two)

**What moments of hope or grace do you find?

**Have you experienced any reversals of these results of "The Fall?" (i.e. an epidural causes less pain in child birth, tractors don't cause farmers to sweat)

**Do we have to accept that this is the way the world works until Jesus comes back, or can we try to reverse the results of human sin now?

5. Using the NIV translation: the Hebrew behind "painful labor" (v. 16) and "painful toil" (v. 17), is actually the same. Now that the humans know what is good and bad, we learn that the system for bringing about life will now work against them, both in childbirth and in working the soil.

**How have you experienced the world working against you in spite of you trying to do good things?

**If you trust that only God can define what is good and evil for you, how does that affect your actions in your work or with your family and friends?

6. Read the first half of Genesis 3:22, then 3:4-5. Revisit the first question above:

**Does the serpent lie?

Followup: In Genesis 2:17, God says that the humans will die if they gain the knowledge of good and evil. But they don't drop dead as soon as they gain that knowledge, rather they eventually die many years later.

**What is it about having the knowledge of good and evil that results in human death?