

# Genesis: The Story of God & His People

## Genesis 3: The Fall

→ *Survey: Let's understand the background and context of the passage.*

The first two chapters of Genesis revealed God's power, creativity, intentionality, and love as He created all things simply by speaking them into existence. Everything that God made was good, and full of life. Last week we learned about mankind, who was made in God's image. Their purpose was to be fruitful & multiply, and to work the land, while caring for all the creatures God had made. Our story ended with man and woman together, naked and unashamed.

But that doesn't last long. As we'll read tonight, sin enters the picture and distorts God's good world. Sin isn't just an action, it's a disposition - it's missing the mark. God gave the man and woman everything they needed in the Garden of Eden. They could eat from any tree, with the only exception being the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Yet, the man and woman are led astray by the serpent (the Devil) and they begin to question God's authority and His goodness.

We don't have to look far to see the effects of sin in our own world, and as we continue to read Genesis this semester we will see how quickly God's people turn from Him. And if we're honest, we'll see how we do the same thing. Yet even in the darkness of The Fall, in man's rebellion, there is hope and mercy displayed. God is preparing a way to restore and redeem all things - and his name is Jesus. What sin took away, God's mercy gives more. Let's wrestle with God's goodness and man's brokenness as we read Genesis 3 together.

Read: Genesis 3 (NIV)

→ *Observe: Let's take a close look at what the text is saying.*

1. (v. 1) How is the serpent described? Who do they talk to, and what do they say?
2. How does the woman respond to this (v. 2-3)? How does the serpent respond (v. 4-5)?
3. (v. 6) After conversing, what does the woman do? For what 3 reasons did she do this?
4. What is the result of this action (v. 7)?
5. What do the man and his wife do after hearing God walking in the garden (v. 8)? What was their reason for this (v. 10)? How does this contrast the end of Chapter 2?
6. What reason does the man give for why he ate from the tree (v. 12)? The woman (v. 13)?
7. What does God say to the serpent (v. 14-15)? The woman (v. 16)? Adam (v. 17-19)?
  - What results from their disobedience? How would you summarize these verses?
8. (v. 20) What does Adam name his wife? Why?
9. (v. 23-24) How does the story close? What is the final result of mankind's disobedience?

→ *Interpret: Let's seek to understand the meaning of this text in its original context.*

1. What is the serpent's goal in talking to Eve? How does the serpent's responses show what he is trying to do (v. 1-5)?
2. What does the serpent's craftiness reveal about the nature of temptation? In your own words, what temptation(s) are Adam and Eve faced with (v. 5-6)?
3. What is sin? How does this passage help us understand sin and its consequences?
4. In what ways does mankind's relationship with God change? In what ways is it similar?
  - In what ways was man & woman's relationship affected? Mankind & creation?
5. What does this chapter help us understand God's character more? (*His justice, mercy, etc.*)

→ *Apply: Let's explore where the text intersects with our lives and our world.*

1. *Notice some of the effects of sin:* Adam & Eve try to hide from God; Adam blames Eve & Eve blames the serpent...
  - In what ways do you respond similarly to your sin? Why do you think this is?
  - Are there specific sins you have yet to confess to God that are holding you back?
2. *Consider some of the serpent's tactics:* doubting God's word (v. 1), contradicting God (v. 4), and calling God's motives in question (v. 5).
  - How can recognizing this help you overcome sin & temptation this week? What are some practical steps you can take to turn from sin and turn to God?
3. How does this story point you to Jesus? In what ways does it help you better understand Jesus' role in reversing the curse of sin?