

A Word from Kathy



Last week in our study, we left all creation singing for joy.

Every possible detail had been taken care of, and all creation was there to enjoy the goodness of God. But, this week, we find our story at a pivotal point. Oh, how quickly lives can change, and ruin can find its way in the door.

Please take your time and read these three chapters, asking God to open your eyes and your heart to all he has to show you. We don't want to miss even one detail that God is ready to share with us.

Observation

1. After reading Genesis 3 at least twice, who are the main characters of this chapter?
2. What have you learned about each of the main characters? Make a list for each.
3. Who was the force behind the serpent? It is imperative that we identify our enemy.
Eph. 6:12 *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*
4. Who was the object of the serpent's attack? Satan's first strategy was to plant a seed of doubt in the woman's heart. Was there a reason to doubt God's love and care? Had God not provided abundantly for their needs? What had God actually said to Adam in Gen. 2:16-17?
5. At this point, Eve is guilty of a foolish act. What is that act?
What was her second mistake? Gen. 3:3
6. What act of foolishness is Eve guilty of at this point? Gen. 3:2

What was her second mistake?

Gen. 3:3 - Some have speculated that Adam may have said this to her to protect her from any contact with this forbidden tree, or she also may have added her two cents in for effect. Either way, we see God's love coming into question.

When the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God... they hid
Gen. 3:8

7. In the New Testament (John 8:44), Satan is called the father of all lies. What lie does he tell in Gen 3:4? He wants Eve to think that God is holding out on her. That He is withholding something good from her. What was God really doing?
8. Look at Gen. 3:6 and list the three steps of Eve's sin.
9. What was the result of their sin? Look at verse 7. Had Satan lied? In verse 5, isn't this exactly what he told Eve would happen?
10. What are Adam and Eve doing in Gen. 3:8? How had they tried to fix their situation themselves in Gen.3:7?
11. It is never God's desire for us to stay trapped in our sin. He longs to have a restored relationship with us. In what way do you see the tenderness of a loving God in Gen. 3: 9-11?
12. What was Adam's response (verse 13) to God's question (verse 11)?
13. How does God deal with the serpent? With the woman? With Adam? Gen. 3:14-24

Interpretation

14. Remember, when studying God's Word, context always rules. What is the time setting for what we have read today?
15. In light of what we have seen in Gen. 3, let's look for other scriptures to shed light on our study.

2 Cor. 11:3 *But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*

How does this verse further clarify what we have seen in Genesis 3? Who was behind the false teachers trying to lead the new Corinthian believers astray? Do you believe Satan is still at work, using whatever he can, to sway men and women from God's Word?

16. 1 Tim. 2:13-14 *For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.*

What was the truth about Eve? What was the truth about Adam's disobedience?

17. What is the general theme of Genesis 3?

Digging Deeper

If you would like to dig deeper into this section of scripture, here are some suggestions:

- 1. Mark with a different color for each: God, serpent, woman, and man (and each pronoun that relates to them).*
- 2. Look up the words below, with a Strong's concordance or a good Bible dictionary, to help you get a better understanding of Gen. 3:14-17.*
 - 1. Cursed*
 - 2. enmity*
- 3. Read Genesis 4, make notes. Where do you see sin showing up now? Who are the key characters of Gen. 4?*
- 4. We see a few more firsts in this chapter - list them.*
- 5. Read Genesis 5, highlight verses 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 23, 27, and 31.*
- 6. Note important facts concerning Adam's offspring in Gen. 5:3.*
- 7. Note important fact from Gen. 5:23.*
- 8. We will also have a timeline chart posted for you to look at and print.*

Application

18. Have you, like Eve, ever doubted God's love and care? You saw something you wanted and lost track of the truth that, *"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."* **James 1:17**. How do you handle these doubts?
19. Think with me for a few minutes. Scripture says that the serpent was *"more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made."* Doesn't that make him sound bad? But, when God had finished creating the animals, on Day 6, what did He say about His creation? This word crafty has been translated in many different ways: shrewd, subtle, clever, cunning and sly. We too have qualities that can be used for good or abused for evil. What must we do to avoid being used by Satan to do his work?
20. Do you see God's plan for man and woman in a new light after your time in His Word this week? Was Adam faithful in fulfilling his role as guardian? Was Eve faithful in fulfilling her role as helper to Adam? In what ways can we apply this to our marriages and relationships and save ourselves much grief?
21. Gen. 3:7 says that both Eve and Adam's eyes were opened; they had an intimate knowledge of good and evil. They had personally experienced both now. How might you avoid the illusion that freedom is found in disobeying God's commands? What deception is Satan tempting you with that should cause you to flee?
James 47 *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*
22. After their sin, the man and the woman feared God. Adam tried to cover their sin, and they tried to hide from God. But nothing was working, so Adam offered an excuse and tried to blame God. Have you ever tried to make an excuse for your sin like this? *I can't live a righteous life; God, it's this job you gave me, this area where I live, this family I was born into, this body you gave me, etc.*



Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ... 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'
Matthew 22:37-39



23. Have you ever tried to hide from God? Maybe by avoiding church or Christian friends for a while because of some sin you have committed? How does God long for us to handle our sin?

James 5:16 *Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.*

Prov. 28:13 *He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.*

24. We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God **in** our lives. We are descendants of Adam and Eve and, therefore, have their nature, a sin nature. The just and fair payment for our sin is death. But, Jesus willingly came and died on the cross for your sins and mine. He paid our sin debt, in full, and declared, "It is finished." On the third day, after His death, He rose victorious over sin and death.

Romans 6:9-14 *For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.*

If you are a child of God, if you have asked Him to forgive your sins, to come into your life and change you, then why don't you take a minute and thank Him, for all the ways He works in your life.

If you have not done this, if you are still trying to cover your sin yourself, as Adam and Eve did with their fig leaves, why not stop and talk to the Lord right now. There will never be a better time to trust Him with your life than right now.

Please let us know if you have made this decision. We would love to rejoice with you and help you in your new life in Christ.