

The Real Housewives OF THE BIBLE



PART 2: EVE

Eve's home was no less than the Garden of Eden. God gave her everything, unblemished and perfectly balanced. God gave her everything—unblemished and perfectly balanced. But when the Tempter suggested that she lacked one particular (but forbidden) fruit, Eve elected to ignore what was right in favor of what was appealing. She allowed the Deceiver to think for her.

The distorted echoes of Eve's willful choice against God reverberated in the lives of her children, Cain and Abel. God has given us a close-up look at what occurred in the generation immediately following Adam and Eve in Genesis 3 and 4. Observe the scenes for yourself by reading those chapters.

BIG IDEA: Your choices greatly influence those who follow you.

Eve, the mother of us all. And she was the woman who made THE monumental, mind-blowing, affects-everybody forever mistake. So she probably deserves the bad rap she gets. But it wasn't like there were any other women around to make it instead of her, right? Maybe she was the first to partake of the fruit just because she was the only one who could remember where it was in the garden (women just know where stuff is). You have to feel a little bit of sympathy for the girl who didn't have a mother to ask about how things were for her back in the day. When the kids had a temperature or were teething she just had to figure it out on her own, but, then again, nobody could look at her and tell her that she was doing it all wrong. And sure, she got us into epidurals, but she had the mother of all heartache, too. Her sons were involved in the first homicide (without Nintendo and violence on TV to blame it on). She was the first mom to have to bury her child.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever made a poor decision for which you've suffered distressing consequences? What have you learned through that experience?
2. *With your Bible or the Bible App, read the account of this family in Genesis 3:1-5.*

The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?" "Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden," the woman replied. "It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, 'You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.'" "You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. "God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil." Genesis 3:1-5

3. Eve's first 2 mistakes involved getting into a discussion with the serpent about what God had and had not said, then adding to God's commandment about not eating from the tree. Have you ever walked into that kind of trap—either doubting God's Word in your own heart or feeling ill-equipped when you're face to face with someone else who does? Describe the situation.
4. Did it have the outcome you hoped for? What did you learn from the experience?
5. What do the following verses tell us about God's Word and how we should handle it? (Proverbs 30:5-6, Luke 11:28, 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
6. *With your Bible or the Bible App, read the account of this family in Genesis 3:5-6.*

"God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil." The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. Genesis 3:5-6



7. Eve's next 2 mistakes weren't oral but visual. She was looking in the wrong place—her eyes were on herself instead of God. And she wanted her eyes to be opened so that she could see everything for herself instead of seeing life through God's eyes. Have you ever gone exploring with your eyes wide open and discovered more than you bargained for?
8. According to Proverbs 17:24, how do our eyes draw us into temptation?
9. Eve did eat the fruit. What might you have said to her just before the first bite? What does 2 Timothy 1:7 tell us?
10. What might you have said to Eve after that fatal bite? What does James 5:16 tell us?
11. Eve's big cover up came next in Genesis 3:7-8, where we find her hiding behind skimpy leaves and skinny trees. Can you think of a time you physically tried to cover up the evidence of your sin? Was it effective? Why or why not?
12. Read Psalm 69:5. What does this verse remind us about trying to hide our sin? What does Psalm 32:5 teach us that we should do?
13. *With your Bible or the Bible App, read the account of this family in Genesis 4:1-8.*

Now Adam had sexual relations with his wife, Eve, and she became pregnant. When she gave birth to Cain, she said, "With the Lord's help, I have produced a man!" Later she gave birth to his brother and named him Abel. When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground. When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the Lord. Abel also brought a gift—the best of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The Lord accepted Abel and his gift, but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected. "Why are you so angry?" the Lord asked Cain. "Why do you look so dejected? You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master." One day Cain suggested to his brother, "Let's go out into the fields." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother, Abel, and killed him. Genesis 4:1-8

14. What was the crux of the argument between Cain and Abel?
15. How do you think Eve might have felt as this sibling rivalry developed?
16. What consequences were hers to endure as the result of Cain's rebellion?
17. The New Testament gives us insightful insights on the dynamics at work in the two young men. Read the following verses and summarize the thought of each. (*Hebrews 11:4, 1 John 3:11-12*)
18. Every child is responsible for his own decisions. Yet how is Cain's willful choice similar to the disobedience of his parents?
19. After the family tragedy, Eve might as well have given up in despair. But Genesis 4 ends on a very hopeful note. Read Genesis 4:25. How might this new development have been used of God to encourage Eve?
20. How have you seen God's grace in spite of your failure?

MOVING FORWARD

Each of us can identify children or young people in our lives who are likely to imitate our faith.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Eve's experience ranges from highest perfection to deepest despair. Through her, we learn of God's supreme righteousness and her never-failing kindness. Eve knew both, and through her life, we may also understand His nature more clearly. What spiritual heritage do you desire to pass on to the next generation?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. Genesis 3:6

