

GENESIS: The Book of Beginnings - Week 4

Read **Genesis 3:1-7**

1) The Big Story This Chapter Sits In

Scripture's "meta-narrative" as four movements:

Creation → Fall → Redemption → Restoration

Genesis 3 is the *Fall*—the moment sin enters the world and fractures what God called "very good."

Reflect

- When you look at the brokenness in the world (and in you), where do you most feel the effects of the Fall?
- Which part of that four-movement story do you need to remember most right now?

2) What's Really Going On With the Tree?

Genesis highlights two trees (Genesis 2:9):

- **Tree of Life** — the provision of life (the sermon ties this to the later "tree" of the cross).
- **Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil** — not "knowledge is bad," but the temptation to **take God's role**: *to decide for yourself what is good and evil.*

Core temptation (as you said):

"To be your own god... to be the judge of what's right and wrong."

Reflect

- Where are you most tempted to say, "I know what's best for me," even when God has spoken clearly?

3) The Tactics of Temptation

The sermon listed four "schemes" that aren't new, they're ancient.

Tactic 1: Cast doubt on God's Word

"Did God really say...?"

Often through distortion, half-truths, or misapplication.

Practice

- In temptation, ask: "*What did God actually say?*" (not what I feel, not what culture says, not what the enemy suggests)

Action

- Write one verse that anchors you when you're tempted. (Even one is a start.)

Tactic 2: Call God's goodness into question

The enemy implies: "*God is holding out on you.*"

The sermon answered with:

- **Psalm 103:5** — God satisfies with good things.
- **Romans 8:32** — if God gave His Son, He won't withhold what you truly need.
- **1 Corinthians 10:13** — God provides a way out.

Reflect

- In what area do you feel most like God is "withholding"?
- How does the cross directly contradict that suspicion?

Simple prayer

"Lord, I don't want to interpret your heart through my cravings. Help me interpret my cravings through your heart."

Tactic 3: Minimize consequences

"You will not surely die."

The lie: "*Nothing will happen.*"

But Genesis 3 shows consequences are real, internally, relationally, spiritually.

Reflect

- What has sin already cost you in the past (peace, trust, closeness, clarity)?

- Who besides you tends to be affected when you compromise?

Tactic 4: Convince you that you know best

The essence of the Fall is misplaced trust: *my understanding over God's.*

Your key verse:

Proverbs 3:5–6 — trust the Lord, don't lean on your understanding.

Reflect

- What's one "lean on my own understanding" pattern you need to name honestly?

4) The Immediate Fruit of Sin: Shame + Hiding

Genesis 3:7 says their eyes were opened, and they realized they were naked.

The sermon rightly notes: in Scripture, "nakedness" often points to **guilt/shame**, not only physical exposure.

Typical pattern

Sin → shame → hiding → covering → distance

Reflect

- When you sin, do you tend to hide through:
 - secrecy?
 - distraction?
 - defensiveness?
 - isolation?
 - blame?
- What kind of "fig leaves" do you reach for?

5) Grace: Forgiveness and Training

You closed with a strong point from **Titus 2:11–12**:

Grace:

1. **saves** (covers sin, offers forgiveness)
2. **trains** (teaches us to say no)

That's huge: grace is not only a rescue rope, it's a teacher.

Reflect

- Do you mostly think of grace as "pardon," but forget grace as "power"?
- What would it look like for grace to "train" you this week?

6) A "Way Out" Plan for This Week (Practical)

Based on 1 Corinthians 10:13 and the sermon's emphasis on knowing God's Word:

When temptation hits, do this in 30 seconds:

1. **Name the tactic:** "This is doubt / God's goodness questioned / 'nothing will happen' / 'I know best.'"
2. **Speak truth:** one verse or one sentence ("God is good. The cross proves it.")
3. **Take the exit:** physically change location, text a trusted believer, or remove access.

Pick one "exit" now

- Who is one person you can text when you're tempted?
- What is one boundary that makes the "way out" easier to take?

Closing Prayer

Father, thank you for warning us without abandoning us. When doubt rises, anchor me in your Word. When I feel you're withholding, bring me back to the cross. When I'm tempted to minimize consequences, make me sober and wise. When I'm tempted to trust myself most, teach me to trust you fully. Thank you for grace that forgives and grace that trains. In Jesus' name, amen.