



SERPENT & STICKS

THE FOUR TREES OF GOD'S CHARACTER

SESSION

1

YES, NO & MAYBE

1. If I could, I would have a snake as a pet.
2. The Tree of Knowledge didn't exist. It is just a metaphor for sin.
3. God places temptations in the center of your life experience.
4. Adam & Eve ate the forbidden fruit because they desired good things.
5. God removes our greatest temptations, when we ask Him.

DIG DEEPER

- What does the Tree of Knowledge represent to you?

› READ Genesis 3:1-9 (NLT)

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?"

2 "Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden," the woman replied. 3 "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.'"

4 "You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. 5 "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."

6 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. 7 At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

8 When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man[a] and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the Lord God among the trees. 9 Then the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

DIG DEEPER... CONTINUED

- Do you think that The Tree of Knowledge really existed, or is it just a metaphor?
 - » Adam & Eve cylinder seals -

- What does it say about God's character that he would place the Tree of Knowledge in "the middle" of the Garden, instead of placing it somewhere else?

- What does it say about God's character that in creating this tree He made it "good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes" (Gen 3:6).

- Why would uprooting this tree from the Genesis story distort God's true character?

- What did the serpent offer? How did this malign God's character?

- God has typically been seen not only as a God who prohibits but also as a God who persuades by force and threats. Does the Tree of Knowledge enforce that view or contradict it?

- How is the Tree of Knowledge a statement of God's core convictions?

MY PRAYER...

1. How am I still viewing God as a prohibiter instead of a liberator?
2. What good thing is distracting me from trusting God fully?
3. What new aspect of God's character does He want me to know?

