



Connect Discussion Guide

2.21.21 Message | Tyler Myers | Genesis 3

God is at work, recreating his fallen creation.

Key Scriptures:

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”

- Genesis 3:1

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

- Genesis 3:6–7

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

- Genesis 3:8

But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”

- Genesis 3:9–11

The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you...I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel...”

To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.”

And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you...”

- Genesis 3:14–19

Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

- Genesis 3:22–24

Message Highlights:

- The story of the garden in Genesis 1-3 isn't an old story, it's an eternal story.
- Worship in the garden is a life of stewardship rather than ownership.
- We make an assumption that when we grab for ownership, we will gain goodness and wisdom. We forget that we were made for stewardship and that grasping for ownership only results in the consequences of sinful rebellion.
- Questioning whether or not we can take God at his word is among the most crucial junctions we find ourselves in on a daily basis.
- We need to be careful assuming God is far off when it is usually us hiding from God.
- Genesis 1 and 2 reveal that God is keeping the knowledge *for* the man and woman. The tempter implies that God is keeping knowledge *from* man and woman.
- God is more interested in healing the brokenness that is going on within us than fixing the problems around us. Healing within us will naturally contribute to the restoration around us.

Conversation Starter:

- In this series, Tyler has noted that we are living in a time where the search for spirituality is on the increase while formal connection to a religion is on the decrease; what do you attribute this trend to, and how can you encourage those who may be on this path to surrender their lives to Christ?

Discuss the Message:

1. The serpent's crafty question in Genesis 3:1, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?", represents a daily battle we find ourselves in as Christians. When do you find yourself asking a version of, "Did God actually say...?", and how do these thought processes impact your relationship with God?
2. The tempter twists God's intentions, suggesting God is keeping knowledge from man and woman, rather than for man and woman. Discuss instances where you notice similar temptation in your daily life; then, confront those temptations by talking about how God's character and intentions turn those lies upside down.
3. The temptation Adam and Eve faced in Genesis 3:2-7 illustrates humanity's faulty tendencies in thinking ownership trumps stewardship. Using Genesis 1-3 as your guide, talk about stewardship in terms of a discipline and a form of worship.
4. In the garden, Adam and Eve's single responsibility was to walk in worshipful obedience; what does the simplicity of this command tell you about God's hopes for us as his followers?
5. As his image bearers, God is more interested in healing the brokenness inside us rather than fixing the problems around us. Meditate on this truth, and together with your group, discuss how this challenges and encourages you to hold fast to the faith, even when we face adversity.

Pray:

Creator God, Forgive us when we struggle to trust that you are not hiding anything from us. We know that in reality, you are keeping things for us, because you only have our best interests on your heart. We no longer want to hide from you in our shame. We run to you for help! Thank you for your grace. Thank you for not giving up on us, but inviting us to fulfill our purpose as the ones you are calling to join with you in your work of restoring the beauty of your creation. Help us by your Spirit to embrace that stewardship as your Son, Jesus did. Amen.