

## Connection Group Questions

For the week of May 5, 2024

**This Week's Message: "Temptation and The Fall"**

Passages: Genesis 3:1-24

The following questions for discussion are designed to help move the Sunday morning teaching to a deeper place in the lives of those who hear it.

### Getting-To-Know-Me Question

1. Have you ever been easily swayed to purchase a product or a service, and then it ended up not meeting your expectations?

### Into-The-Bible Questions

2. **As a group, read Genesis 3:1-24. The origin of evil and the fall of man.**
3. **In Genesis 3:1-5, Satan tempts to stir up doubt about what God has said.**
  - What is the biblical definition of temptation? What is it not?
  - What does the enemy hope to achieve by tempting us? Read 1 Peter 5:8; John 10:10.
  - What is our best defense against giving into temptation? Read Psalm 119:11; James 4:7.
4. **In verses 1-5, Satan cunningly tempts Eve to distrust what God has said.**
  - Why do you think Satan intentionally approached Eve rather than Adam?
  - Compare the strategic phrasing of the serpent's words to Eve in verse 1, and his words to Jesus in the wilderness in Matthew 4:3.
    - What are the serpent's intentions by craftily choosing his words in both cases?
    - What does Jesus say about the devil? Read John 8:42-45.
5. **In verses 1-5, Eve is vulnerable, and the serpent ruthlessly capitalizes on that.**
  - Compare the differences between what God told Adam in Genesis 2:16-17 and what Eve incorrectly stated to the serpent in Genesis 3:2.
    - Eve never paraphrased or lied, so what are the reasons behind why she would utterly misuse the Word of God in answering the serpent's questions?
    - What does this teach us about the dangers of adding, subtracting, modifying, or even being ignorant of God's Word ... especially in application?
6. **In verses 6-7, Satan drives the world system by the lust of flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.**
  - How do we reconcile that there is never any basis to debate, engage, focus, or pursue Satan, yet 2 Corinthians 2:11 tells us that we "***should not be ignorant of Satan's devices or schemes?***"
  - Discuss how we can avoid these three areas of lust, but more importantly, to set a godly example to others by not being pulled into these sinful practices. Read 1 John 2:15-17 and 1 Corinthians 10:13.
7. **What do you think Adam's biggest failure in the garden was? How about Eve's biggest mistake?**
  - What are some things that could have been done? Read Eph. 6:11; James 4:7; 2 Timothy 2:22.
  - How do these events set the stage for God's glory? Read Romans 5:12-17.

8. **In Genesis 3:8-19, God curses the participants in evil.**

- God gave both Adam and Eve several opportunities to repent, but neither did, so why didn't God kill them on the spot? Read Psalm 145:8-9 about the character of God.
- Consider and discuss a better question ... *"why does God even let anyone live?"*
- Discuss how each of Adam and Eve's punishments line up with their original calling in Gen. 1:28.

9. **Read Genesis 3:15. An important verse laced with hope with an expectation of a Redeemer.**

- Why is this verse considered to be one of the most important verses in the Bible?
- Why is it important to notice that God didn't ask the serpent any questions or opportunities to confess and repent?
- How does this speak to God's plan of salvation through His sinless Son?

### **Application For The Week**

We are only three chapters in, and it has already fallen apart. Yet, even in this, God also states His offer of salvation through the Messiah. Deception is meant to be impressive and powerful, and the only way to be protected from it is to know the truth which is revealed in the Word of God. Take time to exercise the spiritual discipline of being immersed in His Word, knowing His truth, so when the master of deception comes, you will clearly see that it doesn't line up with Scripture. This week, carefully consider what Paul instructs in 2 Thess. 3:3, ***"Don't let anyone deceive you in any way ..."*** so that the next time you hear God's Word and His authority called into question with the words, *"Did God really say that?"* ... you'll be confident to respond, *"He did, indeed."*

### **How Your Group Can Pray This Week**

This week, pray with a grateful heart that though sin entered the world through Adam and God responded with punishment, He also offered the promise of a Savior with a new way of salvation, the "covenant of grace." God is fully aware of man's sin but offers opportunity for repentance. Pray we turn from our sin and cast ourselves on the mercies of God knowing ***"God, who is rich in mercy because of His great love that He had for us, made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in our trespasses."*** (Ephesians 2:4-5)

Continue to pray for our New Heights' mission team of twelve in South Africa ***"who have tasted that the Lord is good,"*** (1 Peter 2:3) and are now serving and bringing the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray they will witness God's faithfulness and provision with a trust and steadfastness in His Word. Remember to also pray for an infusion of God's grace and strength as they pour the love of Jesus into the lives of these children in need.