

GENESIS

Genesis 3

Week 3: Hobbled with Hope

Opening Question: What is a familiar dad saying that you say said or you've heard your dad or husband say many times?

"Now **the serpent** was **more shrewd** than any of the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Is it really true that God said, 'You must not eat from any tree of the orchard?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit from the trees of the orchard; but concerning the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the orchard God said, 'You must not eat from it, and you must not touch it, or else you will die.'" The serpent said to the woman, "Surely you will not die, for God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will open and you will be like divine beings who know good and evil." When the woman saw that the tree produced fruit that was **good for food, was attractive to the eye, and was desirable for making one wise**, she took some of its fruit and ate it. She also gave some of it to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the **eyes of both of them opened**, and they knew they were naked; so, they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God moving about in the orchard at the breezy time of the day, and **they hid** from the Lord God among the trees of the orchard. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "**Where are you?**" The man replied, "I heard you moving about in the orchard, and **I was afraid** because I was naked, so I hid." And the Lord God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "**The woman whom you gave me**, she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." So, the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman replied, "**The serpent tricked me**, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all the wild beasts and all the living creatures of the field! On your belly you will crawl and dust you will eat all the days of your life. And I will put **hostility between you and the woman** and between your offspring and her offspring; her offspring will strike your head, and you will strike her offspring's heel." To the woman he said, "**I will greatly increase your labor pains**; with pain you will give birth to children. You will want **to control your husband, but he will dominate you.**" But to Adam he said, "**Because you obeyed your wife** and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,' **cursed is the ground thanks to you**; in painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, but you will eat the grain of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat food until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you will return." The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all the living. The Lord **God made garments from skin** for Adam and his wife and clothed them. And the Lord God said, "Now that the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil, he must not be allowed to stretch out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." So, the Lord God expelled him from the orchard in Eden to cultivate the ground from which he had been taken. When

he drove the man out, he placed on the eastern side of the orchard in Eden angelic sentries who used the flame of a whirling sword to guard the way to the tree of life.” (Genesis 3:1–24, NET)

Tell them: This week we looked at Genesis 3. Pastor Michael spoke about three major events in this chapter: The serpent speaks, the original sin, and the striking mistake. Let’s talk about those for a minute:

1. **The serpent speaks:** In this passage the serpent is described as the shrewdest of the wild animals because he was possessed by Satan. To confirm this, Pastor Michael referred to Revelation 12:9 which says: *“So that huge dragon—the ancient serpent, the one called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world—was thrown down to the earth, and his angels along with him.”* (Revelation 12:9, NET)

Pastor Michael said that Satan was an instrument to tempt and question humanity. His personal goal was and is to get humanity to doubt who God is and what His Word really says and means. Pastor Michael pointed out a very important distinction all believers should know about sin and Satan, and that is that everything that comes to his people has to first pass through His hands to get to them. From Revelation 12:9 and other passages we know that God threw Satan down to earth? *Can you think of any reason why he would send him to the very planet where he would place his first people? What would be the ultimate spiritual outcome of sin entering the world?* (The Savior would come and we would surrender our hearts to Him willingly. *Without sin there is no need for a Savior.*)

The fact that God had a plan for Satan should be a great relief to us. Knowing that God is greater than Satan and that everything the devil means for evil God uses for good means we can be confident in our Protector and Provider and not fear the devil. Especially in these hard times when it may look like evil is winning, we can know that it is not, and rest in His Sovereignty.

2. **The Original Sin - Ask them:** *Have you ever doubted that God was acting in your life or in our world? What lies have you ever found yourself believing about God?*

Tell them: Pastor Michael referred to original sin as humankind’s “first Independence Day.” *Do you remember why he said that?* (He said it was the first time that we decided to take care of ourselves and to look out for number one.) On this day, the first parents said, “Not your will but mine be done.” Of this **Addison Leach said**, “When the will of God crosses the will of man somebody has to die.” *What do you think that means?*

3. **The Striking Mistake - Ask them:** Do you remember why Pastor Michael quoted Thanos saying, “You should have gone for the head?” He paralleled it to verse 3:15, *“And I will put hostility between you and the woman and between your offspring and her offspring; her offspring will attack your head, and you will attack her offspring’s heel.”*

Ask them: *Who are the ‘offspring?’* This passage is often called the *protevangelium* or the ‘first gospel’.

Ask them: *Can you see why it's considered the first gospel? Read them Romans 16:20: "The God of peace will quickly crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you."*

Ask them: *In what way do we see later in scripture that the woman's offspring attacks the head of the devil?*

Tell them: Pastor Michael read from Colossians 2:14-15: *"He has destroyed what was against us, a certificate of indebtedness expressed in decrees opposed to us. He has taken it away by nailing it to the cross. Disarming the rulers and authorities, he has made a public disgrace of them, triumphing over them by the cross."*

Ask them: *What does this tell us about Christ striking the head of the offspring of the serpent? How did he do it and what was the result?*

Next Pastor Michael listed Evil Dos and Don'ts

- 1. Do resist the serpent** – James 4:7: *"So submit to God. But resist the devil and he will flee from you."* (James 4:7) **Ask them:** *What are some ways that we as believers can resist the devil?*
- 2. Don't believe God is unjust** - In today's world it can be easy to ask, "Where is God in this?" But Pastor Michael says we never have to wonder if He is at work, even when the days are evil. Psalm 145:17 says, *"The Lord is just in all his actions, and exhibits love in all he does."* (Psalm 145:17, NET) It might not look like it now, but God will have the glory and justice will be done. When we attempt to play God ourselves, we act like the first parents and place our will above His. **Ask them:** *Have you been guilty of thinking that God was absent or unjust in current affairs?*
- 3. Do abhor evil:** Romans 12:9 says, *"Love must be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil, cling to what is good."* (Romans 12:9) **Tell them:** If the number one commandment and the summary of all other commandments is to love God and to love your neighbor as yourself, then *in what ways can we in our daily lives, in community and online abhor evil while still clinging to good?*
- 4. Don't despair:** Pastor Michael said that, "If you are bruised physical or emotional, don't despair." To help us not despair he read from 2 Corinthians 4:16-18: *"Therefore we do not despair, but even if our physical body is wearing away, our inner person is being renewed day by day. For our momentary, light suffering is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison because we are not looking at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen. For what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal."* **Ask them:** *What comfort does this bring you in your everyday life?*

Pastor Michael said that, "We cannot stand idly by, we have to abhor evil and not despair. Sometimes we are hobbled with evil when we should be hobbled with hope. The fall in the garden was a terrible act which led all of humanity into sin, but it also gives all of humanity a need for a Savior.

Ask them: *In what ways can we be hobbled with hope in the climate in which we live?*

Things to ponder as we go:

1. At the fall, the original Independence Day led to our slavery to sin, but because of Jesus' work on the cross we can experience true freedom by being dependent on him.
2. **Pastor Michael told us** about a missionary family from Italy needing supplies for their two girls going to college. They have moved here with nothing but a suitcase. If you'd like to give to Emma and Micah Worthy, you can give online by selecting the "missions" tab and they will be able to buy bedding and supplies they will need for college. As of Sunday night, \$2000 was received for their two girls to replace everything they left behind in Italy and Germany. If you'd like to contribute, please consider what your group could contribute to welcoming them to our community.
3. **NOTE:** This coming Sunday we will be in Genesis 4-5. Pastor Michael wants us all to read Genesis chapters 4-5 before Sunday.

Also: you can find an additional study questions for at home this week at <http://achurchforyou.com/questions/> (see below)

Further study of the Passage for your quiet time at home:

Genesis 3 - "Now **the serpent was more shrewd** than any of the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "**Is it really true** that God said, 'You must **not eat from any tree** of the orchard?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit from the trees of the orchard; but concerning the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the orchard God said, 'You must not eat from it, and you must not touch it, or else you will die.' " The serpent said to the woman, "**Surely you will not die**, for God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will open and you will be like divine beings who know good and evil." (Vs. 1-3)

What does it mean to be shrewd?

How many lies does Satan tell the first woman in verses 1 - 3? What are they?

The serpent begins by overemphasizing the severity of the law. *Have you ever had thoughts like these? That in some places God's law is too severe and therefore can't possibly be meant to be followed?*

What does Eve say God said about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

What did God really say about the trees in the garden? (See Genesis 2:17)

Why is it so important to know the Word of God? Read Matthew 13:18-23.

“So, listen to the parable of the sower: When anyone **hears** the word about the kingdom and **does not understand it**, the evil one comes and snatches what was sown in his heart; this is the seed sown along the path. The seed sown on rocky ground is the person who **hears** the word and immediately **receives it with joy**. But he **has no root** in himself and does not endure; when **trouble** or **persecution** comes because of the word, immediately he **falls away**. The seed sown among thorns is the person who **hears** the word, but **worldly cares** and the seductiveness of **wealth** choke the word, so it produces nothing. But as for the seed sown on good soil, this is the person who **hears** the word and **understands**. He **bears fruit**, yielding a hundred, sixty, or thirty times what was sown.”
(Matthew 13:18–23, NET)

Which of these soils where the seeds were sown would you say describe the first parents?

What are the different reasons that the seeds in this passage don't take root?

Have you ever had times in your life when you were anything but good soil?

What are some ways that this week you can make the soil of your life more receptive to the seeds sown by Pastor Michael, your family, friends, or in your own study time?

Let's continue in Genesis 3:6: **When the woman saw that the tree produced fruit that was good for food, was attractive to the eye, and was desirable for making one wise**, she took some of its fruit and ate it. She also gave some of it to her husband who was with her, and he ate it.

What three things made the fruit appealing to Eve?

What did she do next?

In this one passage what choice did the first parents make between the serpent's suggestion and God's command? Why do you think we often prefer the suggestion of another over the command of God?

The world often suggests that God didn't really mean what His Word says. Many will also suggest that God is keeping something better from us by giving us all of his boundaries. *Can you think of any circumstances in your life when it was*

tempting to agree that God couldn't have possibly meant what He said or that He didn't have your best interests at heart?

Now let's look at Genesis 3:7-8: **Then the eyes of both of them opened, and they knew they were naked; so, they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God moving about in the orchard at the breezy time of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the orchard.**

What four things happened immediately after they ate the fruit from the tree?

How would you feel if you were caught naked in public?

Why do you think they hid from God?

Have you ever done something hoping that God wasn't watching?

How does it change your life to consider that God is always present and sees everything? If you need a reminder of that fact, read Psalm 139.

Genesis 3:9 -11: **But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" The man replied, "I heard you moving about in the orchard, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid." And the LORD God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"**

God is all-knowing so why do you think that he asks the man where he is?

In 1 John 1:9 it tells us, **"if we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous, forgiving us our sins and cleansing us from all unrighteousness."** (1 John 1:9, NET) *What do we see here comes before forgiveness? Does this help explain why God asked Adam where he was and who told him he was naked?*

Genesis 3:12-13 says, **"The man said, "The woman whom you gave me, she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." So, the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman replied, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate.""**

Who ultimately does Adam blame his sin on?

God asked the couple how they knew they were naked in order to elicit confession from them. *Did either of them confess? What might be a true confession from both of them?*

In what ways do you deflect when you are confronted with a mistake, a sin or a failure? Deflect, avoid, defend or confess?

Genesis 3:14-19: The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all the wild beasts and all the living creatures of the field! On your belly you will crawl and dust you will eat all the days of your life. And I will put hostility between you and the woman and between your offspring and her offspring; her offspring will attack your head, and you will attack her offspring's heel." To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your labor pains; with pain you will give birth to children. You will want to control your husband, but he will dominate you." But to Adam he said, "Because you obeyed your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,' cursed is the ground thanks to you; in painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, but you will eat the grain of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat food until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you will return."

What are the results of Adams sin that God lays out in this passage?

Read Hebrews 2:14: "Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, he likewise shared in their humanity, so that through death he could destroy the one who holds the power of death (that is, the devil)."

Who is He referring to in this passage?

Why did He share in our humanity according to this verse? How does this refer back to the fall in the garden?

The Adamic Covenant is the title used to describe this covenant God makes with the first parents. It states that Satan becomes the enemy of Eve and her descendants, childbirth becomes painful for women, Marital strife, the soil is cursed. Survival becomes a struggle and death is inescapable, but the gospel of grace is promised.

Genesis 3:20-24: The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all the living. The LORD God made garments from skin for Adam and his wife

and clothed them. And the LORD God said, “Now that the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil, **he must not be allowed to stretch out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.**” So, the LORD God expelled him from the orchard in Eden to cultivate the ground from which he had been taken. When he drove the man out, he placed on the eastern side of the orchard in Eden angelic sentries who used the flame of a whirling sword to guard the way to the tree of life.” (Genesis 3, NET)

There are several references to the future coming of the Son of God to earth in the form of Jesus Christ. Can you find them?

If you want a hint think of Jesus as being the final sacrifice, a part of the Trinity and our source of eternal life.

What does the fact that we see so much foreshadowing of the life of Christ in the Old Testament tell us about God’s plans before he even created the world?

What reason does God give for why He is expelling the first parents from the garden?

What do we learn about humanity in this chapter?