

# Membership Covenant

The 5 G's  
Groups  
Giving  
Gifts  
Grace  
Growth

## A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Text for the Week: Genesis 3

Message for the Week: Grace in the Garden

Sunday, February 18

### Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

Neither Adam nor Eve accepted responsibility for their disobedience. How did they respond to God's question about how they knew they were naked? What are some ways that we pass the blame for our misdeeds (sins) away from ourselves?

### Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

### Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Genesis 3](#) out loud.

[Clicking the link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, take note of, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

## **Respond / Reflect:**

What was the serpent trying to do to Adam and Eve's relationship with God? How does that affect your relationship with God?

What do you picture when you think of paradise? How was pre-fall Eden paradise? How is that different from our post-fall view of paradise?

How was the curse Adam received an act of God's grace?

How was the curse Eve received an act of God's grace?

How was the curse on the serpent an act of God's grace?

How was God's action of banishing them from the Garden of Eden an act of his grace?

How is Genesis 3:15 related to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus?

## **Try It:**

How can you show grace to someone who has hurt you? Do it this week.

## **Prayer:**

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you. Pray this prayer together:

Father, thank you so much for your abundant grace that you have demonstrated to us through your Son, Jesus. As you have showered me, abundantly, with grace; may I abundantly share grace wherever I am. May I be Jesus to this world. AMEN

## **Missional/Spiritual Practice: Grace**

I commit to loving Jesus with all my heart, soul, mind and strength knowing I have been saved by grace because of Jesus' death and resurrection; this is a free gift, not the result of anything I have done.

I commit to sharing my testimony of what God has done and continues to do in my life by his grace regularly and boldly as I am led by the Spirit.

# Genesis 3

## New International Version

**3** Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

<sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

<sup>4</sup>“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup>“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

<sup>6</sup>When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

<sup>8</sup>Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

<sup>10</sup>He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

<sup>11</sup>And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

<sup>12</sup>The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

<sup>13</sup>Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

<sup>14</sup>So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,

“Cursed are you above all livestock  
and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly  
and you will eat dust  
all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup>And I will put enmity  
between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring<sup>[a]</sup> and hers;

he will crush<sup>[b]</sup> your head,  
and you will strike his heel.”

<sup>16</sup>To the woman he said,  
“I will make your pains in childbearing very severe;  
with painful labor you will give birth to children.

Your desire will be for your husband,  
and he will rule over you.”

<sup>17</sup>To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’

“Cursed is the ground because of you;  
through painful toil you will eat food from it  
all the days of your life.

<sup>18</sup>It will produce thorns and thistles for you,  
and you will eat the plants of the field.

<sup>19</sup>By the sweat of your brow  
you will eat your food  
until you return to the ground,  
since from it you were taken;

for dust you are  
and to dust you will return.”

<sup>20</sup>Adam<sup>[c]</sup> named his wife Eve,<sup>[d]</sup> because she would become the mother of all the living.

<sup>21</sup>The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. <sup>22</sup>And the Lord God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” <sup>23</sup>So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. <sup>24</sup>After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side<sup>[e]</sup> of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

## Footnotes

- a. [Genesis 3:15](#) Or *seed*
- b. [Genesis 3:15](#) Or *strike*
- c. [Genesis 3:20](#) Or *The man*
- d. [Genesis 3:20](#) *Eve* probably means *living*.
- e. [Genesis 3:24](#) Or *placed in front*

## The Message

**3** The serpent was clever, more clever than any wild animal God had made. He spoke to the Woman: “Do I understand that God told you not to eat from any tree in the garden?”

<sup>2-3</sup> The Woman said to the serpent, “Not at all. We can eat from the trees in the garden. It’s only about the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, ‘Don’t eat from it; don’t even touch it or you’ll die.’”

<sup>4-5</sup> The serpent told the Woman, “You won’t die. God knows that the moment you eat from that tree, you’ll see what’s really going on. You’ll be just like God, knowing everything, ranging all the way from good to evil.”

<sup>6</sup> When the Woman saw that the tree looked like good eating and realized what she would get out of it—she’d know everything!—she took and ate the fruit and then gave some to her husband, and he ate.

<sup>7</sup> Immediately the two of them did “see what’s really going on”—saw themselves naked! They sewed fig leaves together as makeshift clothes for themselves.

<sup>8</sup> When they heard the sound of God strolling in the garden in the evening breeze, the Man and his Wife hid in the trees of the garden, hid from God.

<sup>9</sup> God called to the Man: “Where are you?”

<sup>10</sup> He said, “I heard you in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked. And I hid.”

<sup>11</sup> God said, “Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from that tree I told you not to eat from?”

<sup>12</sup> The Man said, “The Woman you gave me as a companion, she gave me fruit from the tree, and, yes, I ate it.”

God said to the Woman, “What is this that you’ve done?”

<sup>13</sup> “The serpent seduced me,” she said, “and I ate.”

<sup>14-15</sup> God told the serpent:

“Because you’ve done this, you’re cursed,  
cursed beyond all cattle and wild animals,  
Cursed to slink on your belly  
and eat dirt all your life.

I’m declaring war between you and the Woman,  
between your offspring and hers.

He’ll wound your head,  
you’ll wound his heel.”

<sup>16</sup> He told the Woman:

“I’ll multiply your pains in childbirth;  
you’ll give birth to your babies in pain.  
You’ll want to please your husband,  
but he’ll lord it over you.”

<sup>17-19</sup> He told the Man:

“Because you listened to your wife  
and ate from the tree

That I commanded you not to eat from,  
‘Don’t eat from this tree,’

The very ground is cursed because of you;  
getting food from the ground

Will be as painful as having babies is for your wife;  
you’ll be working in pain all your life long.

The ground will sprout thorns and weeds,  
you’ll get your food the hard way,

Planting and tilling and harvesting,  
sweating in the fields from dawn to dusk,

Until you return to that ground yourself, dead and buried;  
you started out as dirt, you’ll end up dirt.”

<sup>20</sup> The Man, known as Adam, named his wife Eve because she was the mother of all the living.

<sup>21</sup> God made leather clothing for Adam and his wife and dressed them.

<sup>22</sup> God said, “The Man has become like one of us, capable of knowing everything, ranging from good to evil. What if he now should reach out and take fruit from the Tree-of-Life and eat, and live forever? Never—this cannot happen!”

<sup>23-24</sup> So God expelled them from the Garden of Eden and sent them to work the ground, the same dirt out of which they’d been made. He threw them out of the garden and stationed angel-cherubim and a revolving sword of fire east of it, guarding the path to the Tree-of-Life.