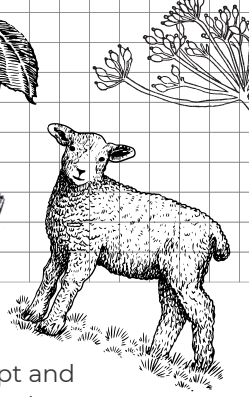
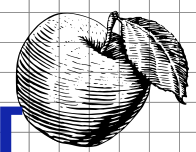




GENESIS GROUP GUIDE



SCRIPTURE DEVOTION | GEN. 3:1-13

As we finished our text last week, the man and woman were living in God's presence while they kept and cultivated the Garden of Eden and pursued God's command to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth. However, this week, we will begin our exploration of the fall of humanity through their temptation and, ultimately, their rebellion. The answer to many of life's deepest questions, "Why do bad things happen?", "Why did he/she hurt me?", "Why did I do that, again?" and many others are found in the following 24 verses of chapter 3. But, even though these verses are rife with tragedy, they are also a picture of God's unflinching and generous mercy.

GENERAL SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS

Read Genesis 3:1-13 individually or aloud giving a few minutes for reflection & prayer.

- **What does this text say about God?**
 - How would you describe God after reading this passage? What do you learn about God's character and nature? How does this passage relate to how society defines God?
- **What does this text say about people?**
 - What do you learn about people's character and nature? How does this compare to what society says or believes about people?
- **What does this text say about how we should live in light of what he has done?**
 - What should I change in my life based on what I've read? Should I be praying about anything? Do I need to confess anything? Are there any promises I need to take hold of? What truths do I need to receive?

TEXT-BASED ONE ANOTHERING QUESTIONS

This time for group members to practice confession, repentance, accountability, biblical encouragement, etc. with the help of the Holy Spirit through his word.

- In Genesis 3:1-5, we see a picture of deception & doubt in the lying serpent and the doubting man & woman. (Her doubt is displayed in her responses to the serpent, his doubt is displayed in his lack of response to the serpent.) The serpent tempts the man & woman to believe what seems to be a question in their minds & hearts already, "Is God withholding good from us? And if so, is he actually good? Can he be trusted?"
 - In the recent past (last month or so), how have you been tempted to doubt that what he has done or not done in the circumstances of your life has been good? Where has the enemy and/or your flesh cast distrust or even just sneaky uncertainty of God's love & care for you?
 - Has this led to a question of his character? What did/do you doubt is true about him?
 - We also see the woman minimize, expand, and dismiss God's actual words in these verses. This reminds us of the vitality of God's word for our very life with him.
 - How has your time in God's word been recently? What does that look like for you today?
- Read Genesis 3:6. Here we see the woman and man enticed by their desires partake of the fruit they had been restricted from by God. The doubt & distrust in verses 1-5 has grown into fear and a desire to control, so rather than trusting that God is doing what is best and gives what is best, they choose to take it for themselves.
 - In the recent past (last month or so), can you think of a time or circumstance where distrust in God or fear of the unknown has led to sinful self-reliance? Where in your life are you currently fighting this temptation?
 - In these verses, we see the passivity of the woman's community (the man) not hinder her rebellion, which ultimately leads to his own as well.
 - What do you think the role of community plays in your current areas of temptation, doubt, or outright rebellion (sin)? Are there unexpressed temptations, doubts, or sinful behaviors that you need to confess to community and ask for help?
- *Continued on next page...*

- In Genesis 3:7-13, we are then given a picture of both man's denial & God's patient and persistent pursuit of man. In these verses, we see the man and woman attempt to deny their sinful actions by sowing fig leaves together, hiding behind creation, and pointing to others to shift blame, eventually even blaming God. However, we also see God, who knows what the man & woman have done, lovingly and gently pursue them in the garden. He repeatedly gives them opportunities to confess to him, asking them question after question.
 - In these verses, we see mankind respond to their sin in 3 ways. They try to cover their shame for themselves, to hide themselves/it from God, and to blame others (including God).
 - In your struggles with various sins, which one of these responses is most common for you? Why do you think that is?
 - How does Jesus, his gospel, speak to each of these responses?
 - What do you initially picture as God's response when your sin is exposed? How does seeing God's patient and persistent pursuit of the man & woman help you understand his discipline of you in your sin? How does it frame or reframe your understanding of the gift of repentance?

MISSION

Evangelism

We want to be intentional in our everyday lives to have gospel conversations with people that don't know Jesus. These people God has placed in our path are not projects, but friends. Friends we long to see have the hope and joy of Christ! Have each group member choose one person they are going to pray for and initiate conversations with about Jesus. Each week, follow up:

- Were they able to share the gospel with them, encourage them, or pray with them this week?
- How can the group pray for the group member? How can the group pray for the person they are walking with?
- What is one next step they can take with this person? Can they ask them to church? To come to community group? Read the Bible together? Etc.

Missions

We want to be mindful and prayerful for the work the Lord is doing in the world. There are tons of ways you can encourage your group members to engage in God's work around the world. Below are some ideas for this week:

- Read a recent update from your group's missionary/missionary family and pray for them.
- Ask group members if there is a particular international or local news story that has impacted them that they want to pray about.
- As the weather improves, consider planning a street/neighborhood party with group members & neighbors
- **Prayercast!** Visit <https://www.prayercast.com/nations.html>. Pick one people group or global missional community for your group to focus for the next month.
 - Give everyone a hw assignment:
 - What are the cultural influences?
 - What are the demonic lies?
 - What are the distractions of that culture?
 - Etc.
 - Host a potluck of food inspired by that area/group/nation and as a group share what you have learned and pray!
 - ***You could also do this same exercise for local communities or people groups***

PRAYER

- Check in on life (ex. relationship with Christ (prayer & word), their marriages/singleness, children, etc.) to discover prayer needs.
- Spend time in confession & prayer for those who have shared areas of disbelief, wrong beliefs, sin, etc. during discussion time.
- If you have more time or separate time for men & women choose 1-2 questions on the following page for accountability time or create your own.

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS

Knowing the members of your group, and having heard about their week, choose 1-2 questions for your time of confession, encouragement, & prayer. We have gathered these questions from various resources, so feel free to jump around this document or come up with your own questions to best serve your group.

- Have you been a testimony this week to the greatness of Jesus Christ with both your words and actions?
- Have you been exposed to sexually alluring material or allowed your mind to entertain inappropriate thoughts about someone who is not your spouse this week?
- Have you lacked any integrity in your financial dealings this week, or coveted something that does not belong to you?
- Have you been honoring, understanding and generous in your important relationships this past week?
- Have you damaged another person by your words, either behind their back or face-to-face?
- Have you given in to an addictive behavior this week? Explain.
- Have you continued to remain angry toward another?
- Have you secretly wished for another's misfortune so that you might excel?
- Did you finish your reading this week and hear from the Lord? What are you going to do about it?
- Did you spend significant time with God through His Word, prayer, quiet time, devotions, and other spiritual disciplines? How consistent? Is He your driving force?
- What blocks your growth in Christ? What blocks growth, in your other relationships, from becoming more mature and effectual?
- Have you faithfully served the Lord, His people, and the lost?
- Did you go and participate in church activities and worship this week? How so? Why not?
- Have you made your family a priority? What noteworthy activity or deed did you do for your spouse and/or family?
- How have you struggled with sin? What are the sins that have weighed down your walk with God this week?
- What did you do to enhance your relationship with your spouse/friends? What can you do to make that relationship better?
- In what ways has God blessed you this week? How have you shared your blessings?
- What disappointments did you face? Did they consume your thoughts? What did you do about it? What can you learn?
- Have you committed any sexual sin? Did you look at someone lustfully? Have you been alone in a compromising situation? Have you been flirtatious? Have you struggled with pornography or "romance novels?" Have you exposed yourself to any sexually oriented material? Did you put yourself in a situation with anyone that could appear to be compromising, even though it may not have been?
- Have you shared your faith? In what ways? How can you improve? Have you had an opportunity to share with a non-Christian?
- How well are you handling your finances right now? Have your financial dealings been questionable?
- Have you been trustworthy? Have you lied? Stolen? Cheated? Been dishonest or manipulative? Have you elevated yourself over another for your own personal agenda? What about your language and attitude?
- Have you been prideful? Have you been guilty of gossip or anger? Slandered? Shown indifference? Been greedy? Not controlled your tongue?
- Have you demonstrated a servant's heart? How so? What have you done for someone else this week?
- Did you struggle with a disappointment this week? How did you handle it?
- Have you respected and treated your classmates, co-workers and peers graciously by showing them compassion and the love of God in your words and deeds? What can you do to enhance your relationships here?
- How is your level of character, according to the comparison of Gal. 5:22-23 versus Gal. 5:19-21?
- How did you practice joy this week? Have you had a thankful attitude toward God? Have you struggled with anger toward God? How so? What can you do about it?
- Have you taken care of the temple of the Holy Spirit with rest, sleep, exercise, healthy eating, etc? What about addictions, gluttony, or substance abuse?
- Have you been honest while answering these questions? If not, how so? If not, why?
- How can we support you as a group?