

Beginnings: Study and Discussion Questions

Lesson Four: The Beginning of Human Rebellion Against God – Genesis 3:1-7

Overview: Read Genesis 3:1-7 carefully.

- 1) From Matthew 13:19, John 8:44, John 12:31 and Revelation 12:9, who is the serpent of Genesis 3? Include other names from these passages. Do these verses depict him as merely a concept of evil or as an actual being?

- 2) Read about and compare the temptation of Jesus in Matthew 4:1-11 to the woman's temptation. What similarities and what differences do you find?

- 3) What do you learn from the passages above that better equips you to face temptation?

Reread Genesis 3:1-5.

- 4) According to Genesis 2:17, what was the name of the forbidden tree in Eden? What does the name seem to imply?

- 5) Compare the serpent's quotation of God's instructions (3:1) with God's actual instructions (2:16-17).

- 6) What subtle doubt did the serpent plant concerning God's nature? Are you currently facing a similar temptation?

From Genesis 3:1-5:

- 7) Was everything the serpent said in verses 4-5 a lie? Explain.
- 8) Can you think of any new "knowledge" Eve would have gained if she had chosen *not* to eat from the forbidden tree?
- 9) What lies about God and His word are prevalent in your culture today?

Read Genesis 3:6-7 with 1 John 2:16 and James 4:1-10.

- 10) Identify the sources of temptation listed in these three passages.
- 11) What helpful truths about the nature of temptation (the forms it comes in, the ways it can be resisted, etc.) do you discover in the above passages? Circle the principle(s) in your list that are most helpful to you currently.
- 12) How much of a temptation is it for you to focus on what you *don't* have rather than all you *do* have? What action, if any, is required on your part (give specific examples)?

From Genesis 3:6-7:

- 13)** What did Adam and Eve become aware of after they ate the fruit? Had their circumstances changed? If not, what had changed?
- 14)** Adam and Eve made fig coverings for themselves. What kinds of “coverings” do people hide behind today because of shame?
- 15)** It seems unlikely that Adam and Eve could have grasped the immense fallout of their disobedience (all of the consequences for themselves *and* for future generations). Is there anything God is asking of you right now that doesn’t make sense to you? What have you learned about the risk of disobeying His instructions?