

IN THE BEGINNING

Genesis 3:1–15

*“Then the man and his wife...heard the Lord God...and they hid...
among the trees of the garden”. Genesis 3:8*

1. What are the two special trees in the middle of the garden, and what is God’s command concerning one of them? (Genesis 2:9, 16–17)
2. The serpent is “crafty” (verse 1). How do we see this in the way he speaks to Eve? What aspects of God’s character is he trying to make Eve doubt? (verses 1, 4–5)
3. What does Eve add to God’s command that he did not say? (Compare Genesis 2:16–17 with 3:3.) Why do you think she adds to God’s words? Have you ever done anything similar?
4. What are the three things about the fruit that tempt Eve? (verse 6) Why do you think that Adam and Eve ate the fruit?
5. What is the difference between temptation and sin? (1 Corinthians 10:13; James 1:14--15)
6. What are the immediate consequences when Adam and Eve eat the fruit to their sense of self, their relationship with God, and their relationship with each other? (verses 7–13). How is that reflected in their words and actions?
7. How does God approach Adam and Eve after they sin? (verses 9, 11, 13) Why do you think he approaches them in this way?

8. Adam and Eve do not immediately “drop dead,” but they do die. How? (Isaiah 59:2; Ephesians 2:1–3; Colossians 1:21)

9. What does God say to the serpent?

10. As God judges the serpent, what promise does he make to the world? Who is the fulfillment of this promise? (Hebrews 2:9, 14–15) Describe how this promise helps you. (Hebrews 4:14–16)

11. When confronted with the serpent’s lies, Eve’s first inclination is to assume that God is not telling the truth; that he is holding back good things; that he is not trustworthy or good. When are you tempted to think like that?

12. Read and meditate on Isaiah 40:21–31. What do you learn about God here that will help you when you are tempted to not trust him?