

The Beginning of the Problem

*FCC Life Group Discussion Notes
Based on the "Genesis" Series of Matthew Rogers
Matthew Rogers Preaching
04-25-26*

Opening Prayer

- Thank God for His Word in Genesis that helps us understand the brokenness we see in our world and in our own hearts.
- Ask the Lord to open our eyes to any ways we might be questioning His goodness or trying to hide from Him, and invite His pursuing grace into our lives this week.

Ice Breaker

If you could bake (or eat) the perfect dessert without any recipe mishaps—like accidentally using way too much butter—what would it be, and why does that one stand out to you?

Key Scripture

Genesis 3:1-7 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You can’t eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, ‘You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.’” “No! You will certainly not die,” the serpent said to the woman. “In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Sermon Summary

This is week 3 in our series through Genesis, “The Gospel at the Beginning.” The sermon uses a memorable Red Velvet Cake story (with a frosting mishap involving too much butter) to illustrate how things can go wrong when we miss or alter the instructions. In the same way, our world is fractured with brokenness, conflict, and inner unrest because sin entered in Genesis 3. The root of the problem is moral autonomy—thinking we know better than God and sidestepping His words. Yet right from the start, when we sidestep God, He steps in with grace through Jesus.

Discussion Point 1: Questioning God’s Words

Scripture: Genesis 3:1-5 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

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Suggested points for prayer is given in each prayer section and are up to the discretion of the leader.

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Point Summary: The serpent subtly distorted God’s clear command, leading Eve to diminish, add to, and soften what God had said. This planted doubt and opened the door to temptation. Satan still uses similar tactics today—questioning God’s words to make us wonder if He’s really generous or trustworthy. Adam and Eve’s response shows how easily we can rewrite God’s instructions in our minds when we want something else.

Discussion Questions:

1. Can you think of a time when you (or someone close to you) questioned or “rephrased” something God says in Scripture to make it fit what you wanted? What happened?
2. How can we help each other recognize and resist subtle doubts about God’s words in everyday life?

Discussion Point 2: Questioning God’s Goodness

Scripture: Genesis 3:6 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Point Summary: After doubting God’s words, the serpent directly attacked God’s character, suggesting He was holding out on them out of jealousy or repression. Eve then evaluated the tree based on her own desires rather than God’s command, and Adam followed passively but willfully. This moment of moral autonomy—choosing what we think is best apart from God—marks the beginning of humanity’s problem with sin, which still separates us from God and each other.

1. **Beginning** In what areas of life do you sometimes feel tempted to question whether God is truly good or has your best in mind?
2. How does seeing Adam’s passive role alongside Eve challenge us as adults in our own relationships and responsibilities?

Discussion Point 3: God’s Immediate Grace

Scripture: Genesis 3:15 (CSB) and Genesis 3:21 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Genesis 3:15 (CSB): I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel. **Genesis 3:21 (CSB):** The Lord God made clothing from skins for the man and his wife, and he clothed them.

Point Summary: Even in the midst of consequences, God pursued Adam and Eve instead of leaving them in hiding. He cursed the serpent while promising a coming Offspring (Jesus) who would crush the serpent’s head. God also provided animal skins to cover their shame—foreshadowing the blood sacrifice ultimately fulfilled in Christ—and exiled them from the garden as both judgment and grace, protecting them from eternal separation in their fallen state. When we sidestep God, He steps in with pursuing, covering, and promising grace.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does the promise in Genesis 3:15 encourage you when you see the brokenness and “garbage” in our world today?
2. In what practical ways can we stop “hiding” or covering our own sin with fig leaves and instead come out to receive God’s grace?

Wrap-Up

The cake story reminds us that when something tastes off, we need to retrace our steps to the beginning. Genesis 3 shows us the root of the world’s—and our—problem: sin entered when humanity chose moral autonomy over trusting God’s words and goodness. Yet the Gospel appears right here at the beginning—God pursues us, promises victory through Jesus, covers our shame, and points us toward a better home. Our key verse reminds us that the same grace available to Adam and Eve is available to us today through Christ.

Challenge

This week, identify one area where you might be questioning God’s words or goodness (perhaps through daily Bible reading in Genesis). Take a specific step to “come out of hiding”—confess it to God or share it with a trusted friend or your Life Group—and receive His grace afresh. If your group is participating in any church-wide initiatives like a Prayer Journey, use this as an opportunity to pray together for renewed trust in God’s character.

Closing Prayer

- Praise God for the Gospel that shows up from the very beginning in Genesis, and thank Him for pursuing us even when we hide.
- Pray for each group member to desire God above all else, to stop concealing sin, and to live in the freedom of His covering grace.
- Ask the Lord to help us point others to Jesus, the One who crushes the serpent’s head and makes all things new.

Handout

Life Group Handout: The Beginning of the Problem *(Print one per person – space for notes)*

Key Verse to Remember: Genesis 3:15 (CSB) – “He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Quick Recap:

- The problem began with questioning God’s _____ and _____.
- Sin separates us from God and each other, but God immediately responds with _____.

Personal Reflection:

1. Where am I tempted to rewrite God’s words this week?

2. How have I seen God’s pursuing grace in my life recently?

Action Step: This week I will: Read Genesis 3 again and journal one truth about God’s grace. Share one “hiding place” with a friend and pray together. Thank God daily for the promise of Jesus in Genesis 3:15.

Memory Prompt: “When we sidestep God, God steps in with grace.” *Bring this back next week to share how God met you!*