

## The antidote to sin; Jesus shares a story.

"A man with two sons told the older boy, 'Son, go out and work in the vineyard

**God is looking for people who will own their sin,  
not condemn others for theirs.**

<sup>11</sup>The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' <sup>13</sup>"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' <sup>14</sup>"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Luke 18:11-14

## What does God do about 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?"

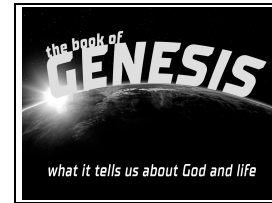
Genesis 3:7-9

<sup>10</sup>Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them. <sup>12</sup>It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, <sup>14</sup>for the light makes everything visible. This is why it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

Ephesians 5:10-14

## Community Group Questions:

1. How has distrust of God's goodness waylaid you in your life's decisions?
2. Ask God to show you where life is about you and not Him.



## **Paradise Lost Genesis 3:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>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 surely die," the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup>"For God knows that when you eat of 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?"

**Who is the serpent?** Everybody understands him to be the Devil, or Satan. The being whom Jesus Christ called "*the ruler of this world*".

## **Apostle James has described the Devil's strategy very plainly.**

Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. <sup>15</sup>These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

James 1:14,15

## Temptations Steps:

Devil's first tactic is to arouse desire.

*Temptation comes from our own desires which entice us ...*

Devil's second tactic is letting suspicion run its course.

*These desires give birth to sinful actions...*

Devil, lastly, seizes the opportunity afforded by the evil act to produce the results that the Scripture describes as death.

*...when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death...*

## Here's how the Devil works on Eve's heart:

**Step #1-** is to make Eve want to sin by instilling a distrust in God's love.

"Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" Genesis 3:1

Eve's answer is straight forward.

<sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,...

Eve should have stopped there. However she continues:

<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.' "

**Step #2-**The Devil openly substitutes a lie for the truth.

"You won't die!" vs. 4

The Devil cleverly plants a doubt in this woman's heart with an outright lie, declaring that what God had said would not happen.

**Step #3-** The Devil supports his lie by distorting the truth.

"For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." vs. 5

## Satan's biggest offer is simple, you'll become like God.

Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. ...<sup>25</sup>They traded the truth about God for a lie. Romans 1:21, 25

*Whenever one makes their own will crucial and God's revealed will irrelevant, whenever autonomy displaces submission and obedience in a person, that finite individual attempts to rise above the limitations imposed on them by his Creator. Victor Hamilton, New International Commentary O.T.*

**Their eyes were opened** but for all the wrong reasons.

The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. <sup>7</sup>At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. Genesis 3:6,7

They both accepted the idea that God was holding out on them. But when their eyes were opened it was shameful.

## The antidote to sin; Jesus shares a story.

"A man with two sons told the older boy, 'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.'<sup>29</sup>The son answered, 'No, I won't go,' but later he changed his mind and went anyway. <sup>30</sup>Then the father told the other son, 'You go,' and he said, 'Yes, sir, I will.' But he didn't go.<sup>31</sup>"Which of the two obeyed his father?" They replied, "The first." Then Jesus explained his meaning: "I tell you the truth, corrupt tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the Kingdom of God before you do. <sup>32</sup>For John the Baptist came and showed you the right way to live, but you didn't believe him, while tax collectors and prostitutes did. And even when you saw this happening, you refused to believe him and repent of your sins. Matthew 21:28-32