

IN THE BEGINNING

H

HIGHLIGHT — GENESIS 3:1–7, HCSB.

1 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?’” 2 The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. 3 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.’” 4 “No! You will not die,” the serpent said to the woman. 5 “In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 Then 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. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

MEMORY VERSES: GENESIS 1:27; HEBREWS 11:7

E

EXPLAIN

If you’ve ever lost anything in the house and could not find it relatively quickly, then you probably tried retracing your steps as best you were able to remember them. By beginning at the end and retracing your steps, you eventually discovered your lost item and probably remembered how you lost it in the first place.

In today’s passage, Adam and Eve lost something; namely, their innocence. How, as described in vv. 6-7, did Adam and Eve **conclude** that something true was a lie and that something immoral was pure? To answer this question, it can be helpful to retrace their steps.

In vv. 4-5, the serpent **corrupts** God’s truth. He reinterprets it in such a way that seemingly honors it while simultaneously contaminating it. Yet we must retrace their steps back even further to Eve’s first encounter with the serpent. For before he corrupted God’s Word, the serpent **clouded** its meaning.

So how did Adam and Eve **conclude** that something contrary to God’s Word was true? How did they lose their innocence? Their understanding of God’s Word was **clouded** and they believed a **corrupt** interpretation.



LONG HOLLOW
BAPTIST CHURCH

In the Beginning, Week of January 10, 2016

LEADER GUIDE



A

APPLY

Share a story about something you did as a child that was against your parents' wishes and that your parents never found out about. Do you carry any guilt or shame about that experience? Why or why not?

If you were Adam or Eve, do you think you would have done what they did? Why or why not?

It's not fun to think about our past or current sin, but this passage requires that we do so. Everyone in the group has disobeyed God today, and probably multiple times. Think about one of those. How did you justify your actions? Did you become clouded in your understanding of God's Word? Did you find yourself redefining God's Word in some way? Explain.

Adam and Eve came to believe something contrary to God's Word when their view of God's Word was clouded and their understanding about God's Word was corrupted. Think about the various areas of life that members of our group are constantly dealing with (think: parenting, marriage, financial, work, etc.). In which of these areas do you currently feel shame (v. 7)? That is, in which of these areas do you truly long to honor God, but feel defeated and scared? Explain why.

How is our behavior different when we feel ashamed than we feel secure?

Have you ever had to confront someone you love about something they did wrong? How did you go about approaching that person? How did they respond? What advice would you give members of our group about confronting others in this way?

In v. 7, Adam and Eve cover themselves with fig leaves to hide their shame. Read Genesis 3:21 -- "*The Lord God made clothing out of skins for Adam and his wife, and He clothed them.*" What did God have to do to provide this covering for Adam and Eve? Why is this significant? How does it point us to Jesus?

R

RESPOND

Finish your time in prayer. Give group members an opportunity to privately resolve to confess to God any sins they are aware of. After a few minutes of silence, conclude with prayer asking for God's forgiveness and thanking Him for His grace and mercy. Thank God that His grace through Jesus' death and resurrection covers the ongoing curse of Adam and Eve's sin. Ask Him for His strength to stand strong in the face of temptation.