

The Story that Makes Sense of Everything
Part 2 of 5
Sunday, April 26th, 2020
The Two Trees

PARTICIPANT NOTES

Welcome to part 2 of “The Story that Makes Sense of Everything”. The goal of this series is that we would understand the metanarrative (overarching story) of the Bible. The more we understand His story, the more we are able to make choices and act in ways that align our story with His. This week we’re looking at the story of Genesis 3 as an archetype for how we experience all of life. We can either live in a trusting relationship with God or we can make up the rules ourselves. The goal of this study is that we would experience the peace that comes with surrendering to God. Life was meant to be lived with God.

OPENING QUESTION:

“Was there anything from Pete’s sermon that you learned, enjoyed or that moved you? Anything you disagreed with or left you with questions?”

In the temptation story in Genesis 3, Eve thought she was making a choice that would lead to happiness and benefit. Instead it lead to death.

Q - Tell us a story about when you thought you were right and turned out to be oh so wrong.

¹The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?”

²“Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,” the woman replied. ³“It’s only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, ‘You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.’”

⁴“You won’t die!” the serpent replied to the woman. ⁵“God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.”

⁶The 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. Genesis 3:1-6

Q – In this short story (Genesis 3) we see how quickly the serpent character is able to get the woman to distrust God. When do you find you are most tempted to distrust God?

Q - What is the thing you have the most difficulty relinquishing control of in your life? Or, what do you have the most difficulty waiting on God for?

Q - Can you think of a time when you trusted God even though it was uncomfortable? What advice would you give to someone faced with a similar situation?

Proverbs 9:13-18 New International Version (NIV)

¹³Folly is an unruly woman;

she is simple and knows nothing.

¹⁴She sits at the door of her house,

on a seat at the highest point of the city,

¹⁵calling out to those who pass by,

who go straight on their way,

¹⁶ “Let all who are simple come to my house!”

To those who have no sense she says,

¹⁷ “Stolen water is sweet;

food eaten in secret is delicious!”

¹⁸But little do they know that the dead are there,

that her guests are deep in the realm of the dead.

Q - The writer of Proverbs uses similar imagery to that of the Garden of Eden story in capturing what temptation looks like. Can you relate to this image of something looking appealing or fulfilling and yet being the exact opposite?

PRAYER:

Read the LORD’s Prayer together.

Missions Prayer focus: Uganda – Pastor Robert and Shadrach