

Study 8

Topic: Made to be saved

Sub-theme: Made perfect, nor broken (3)

Sunday date: June 16

Key ideas: The fall, both victims and perpetrators

Key texts: Gen 3, Rom 8

Read Gen 1:26-2:17. How does this describe the human experience of God, of one another and of the world? What kind of place does the Garden feel like?

There is a 'tree of the knowledge of good and evil' (vv.16-17) planted in the middle of the Garden. What do you think this means?

Read Gen 3:1-6.

In v.1, how do the serpent's words relate to the words of God in 2:15? What effect does this have?

In vv.2-3, what has the woman added to God's restrictions? How does this make the Garden feel now? What does this make God feel like?

In v.4, the serpent contradicts the woman: 'if you touch the fruit, you will not certainly die.' Of course, given that the woman was claiming to accurately represent God (who always speaks truth), it sounds like the serpent is contradicting God. But does the serpent ever really lie? What does this tell us about the way evil often works? Can you think of any mis-used truths or half-truths that affect you?

In v.5, what does the serpent promise the man and the woman? What does the serpent say is missing in their life, and that God is holding back from them?

The serpent tells them that they will be 'like God'. What does it mean to be like God? Since humans don't know as God knows, what are the ways that we can 'know good and evil'?

What does it tell you that the serpent uses comparison to tempt them to stop trusting God?

How do you find yourself comparing your life to others? What are the things you notice? How does that make you feel? How does that shape how you feel about God?

Read Phil 2:5-11. What does Jesus do differently to the man and the woman in Gen 3? How does God respond to Jesus' choice?

How do Gen 3 & Phil 2 help you understand your own temptations to sin? How do they help?