



SESSION 2: The Rebellion

Fall

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Key takeaways for Pre-Disciples:

- Rather than trusting God, the man and the woman decide to disobey God and turn their back on their relationship with God, and choose to live independently from Him
- The consequence of this is the man and woman's relationship with God, each other and with world has become distorted and broken. God in His love, covers their shame, and sends them out of the Garden lest they stay in this state forever.

Part 1

identity

worship

mission

Part 1: catch up

- Icebreaker question – Get everyone to share about how their week has gone, what has been happening in their life in the past 7 days. Listen out for things you could pray for.
- Ask everyone how they got on sharing the story
 - (this is not to keep tabs on people, but is a helpful reminder that part of them learning the story well is you asking them every week if they managed to share it.)
- Ask someone to re-tell last week's story

Part 2 (story)

identity

community

mission

Fall (Genesis 3:1-24)

Story Link: <https://christ-central.org.uk/pre-disciple/>

Now in the Garden there was a snake, one of God's creatures, who was in rebellion against God and his creation. One day this snake came to the woman and asked her 'did God really say that you can't eat of any of these trees?' The woman responded; 'no we can eat of all the trees in the garden...just not the tree in the midst of the garden, if we eat the fruit of that tree or even touch the tree itself, we will die.' ***'You won't die!' the snake responded; 'God only told you that, because he knows that when you eat the fruit you will become like him, with eyes open, knowing what he knows, knowing good...and evil.'***

So the woman looked at the tree and saw that its fruit was edible, and that it looked delightful and tasty, and when she saw that the tree could give her wisdom, she desired it.



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And she took the fruit from the tree and ate. She also gave some to the man who was with her.

*At once, the eyes of the man and woman were indeed opened, and they saw their nakedness and **felt ashamed**. So they took leaves and sewed them together to cover themselves.*

*Now it was usual in the cool of the evening for God to walk in the garden and talk with the man and the woman...but that evening **the man and woman tried to hide away from God**. And **God called out** to the man; 'where are you?' The man responded; 'I'm hiding because I'm naked'. God said; 'Who told you, you were naked? Did you eat of the tree that I told you not to?'*

The man responded; 'it was the woman you gave me...she took the fruit and gave it to me.' God spoke to the woman and said 'what have you done?'. ***'It was the snake', the woman replied; 'he tricked me, and I ate'.***

*God looked to the snake and cursed him, saying; '**one day there will come a son born to a woman and though you will wound him, he will crush you dead.**' Then God looked to the man and the woman told them that everything had now changed. Because of what they had done **their relationship with him, with each other, and with the earth was now broken and distorted**. And God **took an animal, and killed it, and made clothes for the man and the woman to cover their nakedness**. Now God saw that if the man and woman ate of the tree of life now, **they would live forever in this broken and distorted state, So God sent them out of the garden** and blocked the way back, and the man woman headed out of the Garden and were separated from God.*

And that's the story from God's word.

Re-tell the story as group: allow everyone to share a section of the story. If there is more than 6 people consider breaking up into pairs to retell the story.

Questions for discussion

1. What do you like about this story/What stood out to you?
2. What bothered you about this story?
3. What does this story show you about God?
4. What does this story show you about people?

Part 3 (practice / takeaways)

identity

worship

mission

Ask the remaining questions:

5. What does this story mean for your life? How will you live your life differently having learned this story?
6. How will you remember this story? (tell it!)
7. Who are you able to tell this story to?



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Encourage everyone in the group to think of people in their life whom they could retell the story to; mention that at the next session we will recap the story and ask who remembered to tell the story. Again it is helpful to emphasise the reason for going and telling the story ourselves is that it is the best way for us to remember the story.

Other useful media resources

- 1.) This is a really helpful video on the origin and nature of the Satan/the Snake in the Garden

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CamYtVpoTNk>

- 2.) This is a video on the nature of Sin – Khata – in Hebrew.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNOZ7ocLD74&t=98s>

Notes for leaders - questions / topics that may arise

- **Where did the snake come from?**
- All we know at the beginning of the story is that this 'snake' is crafty/intelligent and is actively rebelling against God through his deceitful interaction with the woman. Further on in scripture we find this snake associated with the identity of a rebellious spiritual being that once stood in the heavenly council. Many names are used for this rebel (The Satan-The adversary, the accuser, the devil, the evil one, the prince of the power of the air). The Video above is especially helpful on this question. What is that rebellion against God did not originate with humans but with this rebellious creature.
- **If God created everything and knows everything, then he knew Adam and Eve would inevitably eat the fruit from the tree. So why are they at fault?**
- This question is very similarly related to the question of why did God put the tree in the garden in the first place? Or, why didn't God kick out the snake before he spoke to the man and the woman?
- The short answer is we don't entirely know why God allows the snake to be in the garden, or why he allows it to deceive the man and the woman.
- **i)** What we do know is that God created man and woman in his image and they were very good, they were not made with evil inclinations but neither were they programmed like a machine without freedom to choose to trust God. Rather God made them for relationship with himself.
- **ii)** Secondly, the snake's influence does not mean that the man and the women are without responsibility. They were given authority over the garden and the earth, to act and rule as representatives of God. Therefore, though the man and the woman are also victims of the snake's deception, nonetheless, they both allow his influence to shape their own desire, to turn their back on trusting God and to reach out and try to live independently of God as their own rulers, defining good and evil for



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themselves. Humans become under the influence of evil but also choose to be collaborators with evil rather than trusting God.

- **iii)** Most importantly, it is worth pointing people to the often forgotten details of this story that demonstrate even in the midst of God's judgement are profound moments of undeserved love. E.G He kills one of his animals, to cover the nakedness and shame of the man and the woman because their fig leaves won't do the trick; He sends them out of the garden so that they will not be forever stuck in an eternal state of brokenness. The rest of the stories will show how God will demonstrate his love for rebellious humanity by winning them back to himself and dealing with their sin and crushing their enemies.

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- **Had Adam and Eve already eaten from the tree that gives life?**

- We do not know if God is saying that he does not want Adam and Eve to start eating the fruit from the tree of life, or whether he does not want them continuing to eat the fruit. However, the structure of the verse seems to suggest that they had not yet eaten, although that fruit had not been forbidden to them.

- **Why was nakedness a problem for Adam and Eve?**

- Man's "nakedness" is symbolic of shame, a consequence of the guilt from sin. This shame is genuine – no one had to tell Adam that he was naked or what his sin was – he was aware of it on his own.

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- **How is knowing good and evil being like God?**

- In Genesis 3:6, the woman chose to do her will rather than God's. When we act autonomously like this, we take the power ourselves to determine right and wrong, what is good and bad for us and make ourselves, rather than God, the frame of reference for moral guidelines. We take on the role of determining right and wrong that was meant to be God's alone. When we do so, we become "like God," and that is the very thing that God forbids because it means us becoming more than He intended for us to be.

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Further Questions

- It might be worth asking people, what evil do they see in the world? Do you ever feel like there are habits and behaviours that you know are destructive or wrong, and yet you feel drawn to do them?
- In these two stories humanity and the world are showed to be wonderful and beautiful being crafted by God and yet deeply flawed and broken, how does this resonate with the way we see the world?



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Feedback from Group Leader

In our vision for discipleship, we have identified 4 key ingredients to healthy and growing disciples. As you are leading your group, for each session, you can make some notes under each heading for how the group is faring in each of these areas.

identity

worship

community

mission