

Winter 2010

SMALL GROUP SERIES:

Let There Be Light

Genesis: The Story Begins

Discussion Guide
Week #4

Genesis Series: Refusing the Fruit

Genesis 2:16-3:13 (TNIV)

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will certainly die." 18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." 19 Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

23 The man said,
"This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called 'woman,'
for she was taken out of man."

24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. 25 The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Genesis 3

1 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'?"

2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 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.'" 4 "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 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. 7 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. 8 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. 9 But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" 10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." 11 And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" 12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." 13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Facilitator's Guide

Facilitator's Tips

Here are some practical tips to help your group to be real:

1. Be the example. If you want your group to live transparent lives with one another, you must pave the way first. No matter what type of day you are having, tell your group about it, whether it is good or bad. If you never pick up a mask to cover your sins or struggles, you will be giving them permission to be real.
2. Let them see your weaknesses. Never allow your group to think you are perfect.
3. Allow your group to see you being real with God through prayer. For a greater understanding of our freedom to express our emotions to God, read through the Psalms.
4. When you sense someone being real with your group, thank them for it. It takes courage to be real!
5. Ask great follow-up questions. If someone requests prayer, ask them how they want you to pray. If someone states their perspective on a topic of question, ask them to explain their point of view more.

-Adapted from SmallGroups.com

START IT

- What's the most deceptive lie you've ever fallen for?
- What's desirable about being in control of everything? What makes it hard to not be in control?
- What one rule did your parents have when you were growing up that seemed ridiculous but turned out to be a good idea?

STUDY IT

- Read the scripture. What does God say about the tree?
- Whom does God speak to?
- In what ways is the serpent 'crafty'?
- How does 'the fall' happen? Pay careful attention to the story.
- Why does Eve get tempted? How does Adam consent to the fall?
- What happens after they eat the fruit? What does that mean?
- What's their interaction like with God after they eat the fruit?
- Why do they hide? Why does God ask questions?
- What evidence of blame shifting do you see?
- Why don't Eve and Adam take ownership for breaking the rule?

LIVE IT

- In what areas of your life does God's way feel or seem restricting?
- When or who are you tempted to blame?

PRAY IT

- For humility to confess our sins and come out of hiding.
- For a deeper trust that God's ways are truly good.