

# THE BIG STORY

## Week of September 20

*I will put enmity between you  
and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will strike your head,  
and you will strike his heel.”*

*Genesis 3:15*

## Creation & Exile

### Daily Readings

The daily readings for this week follow the story of Creation throughout the BIG story of the Bible so that we get a sense for how important Creation and New Creation is to this story.

#### Monday

Genesis 4  
Romans 5:12-21

#### Thursday

Genesis 8  
Matthew 24:36-44

#### Tuesday

Genesis 6  
Hebrews 1:1-5

#### Friday

Genesis 9  
1 Peter 3:18-22

#### Wednesday

Genesis 7  
Hebrews 11:6-7

#### Saturday

Genesis 11  
Acts 2:1-13

## Expelled: Conversations on Genesis 3

These questions are written for personal reflection and also to be discussed with others – in your household, your Connection group or with a spiritual friend.

*“What is described is not the extraordinary, the shocking, the unthinkable and terrible but the completely natural and perfectly human.”*

–Claus Westermann

“The devil made me do it...” I wonder if you ever heard that phrase growing up? I wonder if you’ve ever used it? How about the famous Oscar Wilde quote, “*I can resist everything except temptation*”?

What do you think of when you hear the word “temptation”?

Is temptation something we still hear or talk about culturally?

Are we more likely to celebrate those who give into temptation or those who resist?

*For children – When you are told not to do something, how does this feel? What helps you to obey a rule that someone gives you? When you break a rule, why do you think that is?*

- Read Genesis 3 out loud as a group.
- What questions come to mind as you listen?
- What strikes you about God in these passages?
- What strikes you about humans?

### ***Temptation and Trespass: Genesis 3:1-6***

Consider the conversation between the serpent and Eve. What does the serpent say to Eve?

How is God or God’s motives characterized by the serpent?

Laurie referred to the serpent as a “Merchant of Doubt” – suggesting that the serpent doesn’t outright invite Eve to disobey – he raises doubts instead. Does the text seem to support this reading? Are there other factors at play in the story?

What reasons does Genesis 3:6 give for Eve taking the fruit? What reasons are given for Adam also accepting the fruit from Eve?

Is sin ever mentioned in Genesis 3? Is it demonstrated? How would you define sin if this was the only story that you had? Does this match the way you think about sin?

### ***Hiding and Blame: Genesis 3:7-19***

Looking at Genesis 3:7-8 what are the results of eating the fruit? What is the human response?

What does the text say about God in this passage?

When you are called out, what is your go-to response – are you a hider or a blamer? How does that play out in your close relationships? How does it play out with God?

*For children/families – when you have done something wrong, do you ever feel like hiding? Do you ever feeling like blaming someone else? Do you ever feel afraid to tell the truth about what you have done?*

### ***Punishment and Promise: Genesis 3:20-24***

Laurie suggested that what we would expect from God is punishment and death for disobeying the command, but instead there is punishment and mercy.

Where do you see mercy in this story?

What stands out to you in the results, the punishment for rejecting God's command?

Laurie also suggested that the expulsion from the garden is an act of mercy, preventing humanity from being trapped eternally in life defined by toil, shame, subjugation and blame. The expulsion from the garden sets up the arc of the Bible's story. It marks a clear "No Longer" at the original creation, and a "Not Yet" for the new creation.

Does this description of where we live ring true in your own life experience – that we live between the "No Longer" and the "Not Yet"?

*For children/families – when Adam and Eve disobeyed, God came looking for them, even though they tried to hide. How does it make you feel that God will come looking for you no matter what you have done? What do you say to God when you have disobeyed and hurt God or hurt someone else?*

### ***Personal Growth***

What characteristics of God in these passages invites your worship and/or encourages you to fully entrust yourself to God?

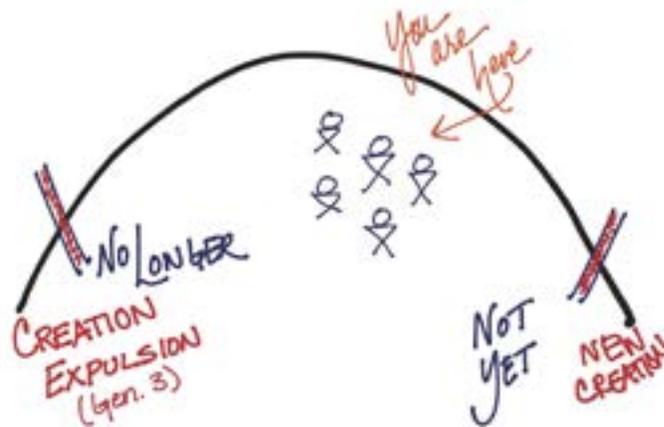
Where are your assumptions about who God is, or what it means to be human, challenged by these stories?

How can we be praying for you / each other this week?

## Going Further: Dignity & Dependence, Authority and Vulnerability

**Families** – For older kids and teens these Bible Project Videos give a starting place for some pretty interesting discussions:

- [The Tree of Life](#)
- [Genesis 1-11](#)
- [Spiritual Beings – Satan and Demons](#)



### **The Courage to live into God's "No Longer"... With Vulnerability and Dependence**

**Spiritual Friendships:** Living into God's "No Longer" in hope of the "Not Yet" can be experienced when we seek God's grace to no longer be identified by our temptation and trespasses, hiding and blame but accept God's mercy in Jesus to live into the hope of life as a New Creation. An essential part of this journey is seeking at least one other person who knows the cycles of sin and shame we are seeking to leave behind, and communicates God's grace and presence with us as we live into the new. Here are a few resources for introducing mutual confession and accountability into our spiritual friendships:

[This article](#) speaks specifically about addictions, yet is applicable to any area of temptation and trespass that we easily fall into, hiding from others or blaming others for our choices.

Here is another resource from the [Gospel Coalition blog](#) that describes the characteristic of accountability partners.

### **What about shame?**

Join us for our BIG story conversations this **Wednesday (9/23) at 7:00pm** via Zoom call as we use resources from Curt Thompson, author of *The Soul of Shame*, to discuss the intrusion of shame into God's creation and our freedom in Christ.