

Small Group Curriculum • Genesis 3 • Where in the world did we go wrong?

HOW DID WE GET HERE? • WEEK 1 • Genesis 3:1 - 7

As the title of the sermon series suggests, it doesn't take a lot of convincing to acknowledge that something's not quite right in this world. Amidst all the brokenness, pain, and suffering we find ourselves asking, "Where in the world did we go wrong?"

We find the answer in the story of the garden in Genesis 3. This week we'll read about Satan's temptation and reflect on how we might respond when we find ourselves in the same battle.

REMINDERS

- Join our Space or Café Team, serving once a month! Reach out to layth@awakeningchurch.com for Space, and bailey@awakeningchurch.com for Café.
- Join our local food pantry team the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month from 2-5pm at Del Mar High School. To register go to awakeningchurch.com/serve

ICEBREAKER

Growing up, what was your understanding and view towards spiritual forces?

- Spiritual things are myths of the past; they aren't real
- Everything is spiritual. Whenever bad things happened, I'd often attribute them to "the devil"
- Some things are definitely spiritual, but other things are coincidental
- Something else?

INTRODUCTION

In this week's sermon we were reminded of a real spiritual enemy whose goal is "to steal and kill and destroy" (John 10:10). The Apostle John sternly reminds us of the reality of living in a world where the enemy wants to lead us astray¹:

"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the *lust of the flesh*, the *lust of the eyes*, and the *pride of life*—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever." (1 John 2:15-17)

Transition: Today we will read two key passages where Satan uses those three temptations — first on Eve in the garden, then on Jesus in the wilderness before the start of His public ministry.

DISCUSSION

READ: Genesis 3:1-7

¹ Daniel L. Akin, *1, 2, 3 John*, vol. 38, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2001), 108.

AWAKENING

QUESTIONS

1. Can you identify Satan's three core temptations — the *lust of the flesh*, the *lust of the eyes*, and the *pride of life* — in verse 6? You can refer back to the sermon notes if you attended/watched the sermon:

the fruit of the tree was <i>good for food</i>	Lust of the flesh
and <i>pleasing to the eye</i> ,	Lust of the eyes
and also <i>desirable for gaining wisdom...</i>	Pride of life

2. The reasons for why the woman wanted to eat the fruit doesn't necessarily seem bad at face value. Why was it wrong for her to eat of the tree?

READ: Matthew 4:1-11

QUESTIONS

1. Who led Jesus into the wilderness? Is this surprising?
2. List Satan's three temptations. Can you map them to the same three core temptations² mentioned in 1 John 2:15-17 from above?

"If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."	Lust of the flesh
"If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."	Pride of life
"All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."	Lust of the eyes

3. For each of the temptations, how did Jesus respond to Satan? What is the role of Scripture in our own battle against temptations?
4. In both Genesis 3 and Matthew 4, the root issue of the temptation is in "trust" in God. In Genesis 3, Eve was tempted to question God's goodness and trustworthiness³. In Matthew 4, Jesus was tempted to question the Father's sovereign will⁴. Can you think of an area, past or present, where you were tempted to question whether or not God would see you through? What might help you in those times?

RESPONSE

² Mark L. Bailey, "Matthew 1-7 - Jesus the Messiah: The Person and Platform of the King," unpublished class notes for BE5105 (Dallas Theological Seminary, Summer Semester, 2022).

³ Ryan Ingram, "Where in the world did we go wrong? Part 1: How did we get here?" sermon notes (Awakening Church, April, 2025).

⁴ Mark L. Bailey, "Matthew 1-7 - Jesus the Messiah: The Person and Platform of the King."

A W A K E N I N G

As we can see, the enemy's goals and tactics haven't changed much – from Genesis to the Gospels, and to the present day. In Scripture we find that Jesus Himself was tempted and understands what we are going through. Hebrews 4:15-16 says “we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” You are never “alone in your temptations”⁵. He also modeled how we may combat and respond to them.

- How does this encourage you to seek God and ask for His help when you face temptations in life?
- What are you needing from the group right now to support you in your temptations?

PRAYER

Share an area of your life where you want to increase your trust and faith in God so as to strengthen and guard yourself against Satan's potential temptation.

⁵ Mark L. Bailey, "Matthew 1-7 - Jesus the Messiah: The Person and Platform of the King."

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Akin, Daniel L. *1, 2, 3 John*. Vol. 38. The New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2001.

Bailey, Mark L. "Matthew 1-7 - Jesus the Messiah: The Person and Platform of the King," unpublished class notes for BE5105. Dallas Theological Seminary, Summer Semester, 2022.

Ingram, Ryan. "Where in the world did we go wrong? Part 1: How did we get here?" sermon notes, Awakening Church, April, 2025.

PASSAGES

Genesis 3:1-7

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'?"

²The 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 from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶When 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. ⁷Then 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.

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted^[a] by the devil. ²After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

⁴Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'^[b]"

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶"If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

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“He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”^[a]

⁷ Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’^[a]”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’^[a]”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.