

INTRO

- Were you a picky eater as a child? Any foods that made you ask your parents *just why?*

In this series, we want to understand the grand story the Bible is telling from beginning to end: God's Story.

READ

Read Gen 3:1-13

REFLECT

So far everything in creation was good and true. But that seems like a distant reality to us who live in a broken world that sometimes feels so out of place. What happens next in this story will shine light upon the age-old question: what has gone wrong with the world?

Qu: What are some popular answers for the question of what's wrong with the world?

THE DECEPTION (v. 1-5)

Gen 3 begins with the introduction of an enemy in the form of a serpent. This enemy instigated our first parents to rebel against God by raising two questions: what has God *really said*, and can God *really be trusted*? These doubts pushed them to consider disobedience as a possibility. In what ways are these questions still being asked today?

Qu: Have you ever considered changing your interpretation of God's commands to suit your circumstances? Explain.

Qu: In which ways do we still mistrust God?

THE REBELLION (v. 6-7)

The first thing we learn about sin is that it is always a false promise. The serpent was right about Adam and Eve having their eyes opened, but the result was very different from what they expected. Sin is like that: a promise with a bit of truth but concealing the whole picture.

Qu: Do you agree that sin contains some truth in its promise? How do we fight the temptation to fall for it?

Above all, sin is simply disobedience. We were made *by* God and we owe our existence and our lives to Him. Our first parents' sin was rebellion against their Maker and so is our sin too. We sin when we only consider "what's in it for us" when making decisions in life.

Qu: Have you ever felt like you had a duty toward God? Have you ever thought of obedience as something to be desired for its own sake?

THE DOWNFALL (v. 8-13)

By eating the fruit, Adam and Eve tasted a real, spiritual death: separation from God. It was followed by the realization of their own evil hearts and, thus, by guilt and shame of who they were. It was also followed by the breakdown of their relationships with one another and with God.

Qu: In which ways do we seek to rid ourselves of the guilt and shame that follow our sins? Can anything but forgiveness ever do it?

Qu: How does sin separate us from one another and from God?

But the good news is that a perfect Adam has already come to set things right precisely where the first, flawed Adam got them wrong. Jesus Christ came to save us *from* the guilt and shame of sin and *into* a life of obedience to our Creator

RESPOND & PRAY

- in what way/s does this part of God's Story encourage and or challenge you?
- How will you apply this to your life?
- Pray for one another in light of the discussion.