



## Home Worship Guide – Genesis 3

### Complement to sermon on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013

#### MEMORIZE

Genesis 3:21 “The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them”

#### READ

Read Genesis 3

Genesis 3 is both devastating and uplifting. It is devastating in that we see the fall of humanity. We see mankind choosing disobedience rather than obedience and being faithless rather than faithful. This is a tragedy indeed. Let us analyze together the fall in a little more detail.

How many trees were there in the Garden that Adam and Eve were not allowed to eat? All but one? Half? A third? According to the text, God told Adam he could eat from any tree of the garden, except one (Genesis 2:16-17). So Adam and Eve had multitudes of trees to eat from. Another question, where did God place this tree? Right at the entrance? No, the text says this tree was in the middle of the garden (Genesis 2:9). So in order to get to this tree and its fruit, one would have to pass all the other trees and fruit that God had created. In other words, you would have to intentionally look for it and get to it. Compare this with Genesis 39. Here we see another person, given control over an entire estate but one thing is withheld, the master’s wife. When she tries to seduce Joseph, his response is strikingly different than Adam and Eve, he resists.

Who did the serpent go after, Adam or Eve? According to the text, Eve. Why was this so brilliant on part of the serpent? Two reasons stand out. First, God told Adam not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, it never says He told Eve. So Eve most likely heard this second hand. But second, and even more brilliant, if the serpent could convince Eve and have her offer it to Adam, now Adam has to choose between following God or his wife. Perhaps this is what Jesus was alluding to when he told his disciples to count the cost. “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, even his own life, he cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:26). Jesus certainly did not mean for us to not love our family. He meant that God is to be on the top. And this is exactly the situation the serpent was able to put Adam in. And we know his choice.

But chapter three ends on a note of hope. For in the fall, Adam and Eve experienced a love from God that they never knew existed: grace. By His grace, He restores them and dresses them. Yes, there were consequences for their actions, as there are today, but do not miss the fact that God’s grace overcame the temptation and the sin that the serpent led them into.

#### Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. How serious does God take sin? How serious do we? Does our perspective need to change?
2. Is God on the top of our love list? What do we love more than Him? (If there is anything you could not imagine being without, that could be a clue)
3. God clothed Adam and Eve in animal skin. We are wrapped in the righteousness of Christ. What does this mean and what difference should this have on our lives?

**Bottom Line:** God’s grace and mercy trumps Satan’s attempts to deceive and destroy.

#### SING

**Garments of Praise** (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6cNIHUhTqY>)

When God cloaks us in His garments, it give us reason to respond with praise and thanksgiving!

## SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created for specific age ranges as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

### Preschool (up to Kindergarten) (activity from thrivingfamily.com)

- With your preschooler, gather five of the child's stuffed animals and/or dolls. Ask, "Which is your favorite?" Have him set that toy down in front of him. Ask, "Which is your next favorite animal or doll?" Show him how to put this second choice behind the first. Continue in this way, creating a line of toys, one behind the other.
- When he's finished lining up the toys, ask your child to point to her favorite. Ask why he likes that one best. Affirm that we all have favorites, with our toys, and with people, too.
- Now place something tangible that your child equates with God, such as his toddler Bible, in front of the most favored toy.
- Explain that when we love God, we want to always put Him first in everything. That's how we show God that we love Him. You can even make this more vivid by hugging the Bible and then hugging your toddler. Then have him hug the Bible before hugging any of his favorite toys.
- Finish by saying together, "We love God first!"

### Kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade (activity from thrivingfamily.com)

- To prepare, put three golf balls in the bottom of a canning jar. Add rice, dried beans, or field corn to fill the jar. Make sure the lid will close. Now dump all the contents into a bowl.
- Gather the children around. Explain that the jar represents their day and all the activities that fill it. The bowl is filled with the activities. Have them scoop up the rice (or beans or corn) into the bowl while naming activities or responsibilities that occur in a typical day.
- After all the small items are added, have them try to add the golf balls. Describe that the golf balls represent Bible time, praying to God and loving others. They will see the balls do not fit.
- Now, dump it all out again and this time start with the golf balls, restating that they represent Bible time, praying and loving others. Then have them fill the jar with the small items, again equating them with the activities they do during the day.
- When everything is added, put the lid on. Explain that when we put God first, everything else fits.

### Middle to High School

- Read Luke 7:36-50, Luke 12:1-12 & Luke 14:25-33
- Discuss how these passages relate to the fall as described in Genesis 3
- How do these passages relate to each other?
- What implications do these passages have on being a disciple?
- Why is such a temptation for followers of Jesus to pretend everything is good and try to cover up their sin? Why is this so dangerous?
- Christians are seen as hypocritical and judgmental. How would regular confession and repentance overcome this stereotype? What is holding you back?

## PRAY

Father God, thank you for your grace and mercy. Help us to come to you as we are, to bring to you all of our struggles, that we may experience the grace and mercy you give more and more.