

Discussion Questions

- What kinds of things have you heard from false teachers?
- When you hear two opposing ideas, how do you know which one is right?
- Are there particular things that would be tempting for you? What can you do now so you'll be ready to discern what is true and resist temptation?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Do you think it is easier to resist temptation when you are alone or when you are with other people? Certainly, if the people around you are giving in to temptation, peer pressure can make it difficult. But, so can being alone. Ecclesiastes 4:9–10 says, *“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!”* One of the many benefits of marriage is having a helpmate, someone else to help encourage you to the right things, iron sharpening iron. My wife has certainly helped me physically when I am sick, emotionally when I am sad, spiritually when I feel run down. Notice the serpent went for Eve while she was alone. He also started with the woman instead of the man. Do you think that was on purpose? 1 Peter 3:7 says that husbands need to show honor to the woman as the *weaker vessel*. Men are called to protect and cherish their wives, and Satan knew Eve would be more vulnerable when she was alone. Together, with other believers who are following Christ, we are stronger. We help one another. And, on a bigger level, God helps us in all things if we would only listen to his Word and promises.

Discussion Questions

- What friends or family do you have that will help you avoid temptation?
- Have you ever thought about how God might be using you to help others stay strong?
- If you know God, are you ever truly alone?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, January 7th, 2024)

Baptist Catechism Question #18

Q: What was the sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created?

A: *The sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created, was their eating the forbidden fruit.*

Suggested Memory Verse

Genesis 3:6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. (ESV)

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The Bible tells us in Rom 3:23 that all have sinned. Even brand new babies are sinners because we inherit a sinful nature from our first parents, Adam and Eve. I have watched young babies get mad and be rebellious before they were ever taught what those things are. Babies easily learn the concepts of NO or MINE long before they can even say the words. Adam and Eve were created in such a way that it was possible for them to sin and also possible for them not to sin. I wonder how long they actually spent in the garden before the fall... I suspect it was not long. At some point, they sinned by eating the forbidden fruit. Eve took the fruit after being deceived by Satan. She ate of it and then gave some to Adam who also ate of it. They lusted after the fruit and then chose it over God's commands to them to not eat. Lust is the overpowering desire for something God has forbidden. Three types of sins are mentioned in 1 John 2:16, "*For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.*" All three are also found in Genesis 3. Lust of the flesh--she saw that the tree was good for food; lust of the eyes--she saw that it was pleasant to the eyes; and pride of life--she thought it would make her wise.

Discussion Question

- Nobody knows, but how long do you think Adam and Eve were in the garden before the fall? Why?
- Have you ever felt like you knew better than God and did things your way? Give an example.
- Have you ever really wanted something even though you knew it was wrong? Give an example.
- Do you know the answer to sin? Can you explain it?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

I (Shawn) once rebelled against my parents by running away from where my mom was cleaning a house. I decided I was going to walk back to our home on the other side of the city, and I stopped at many places along the way to entertain myself. It took me all day to get home on foot, and I was of course in huge trouble when I finally arrived. The police had been called, my pastor had been called, my family had been called. In the heat of my anger, I had only thought about myself and what I wanted to do and about making my parents sorry for their rules and discipline. But I was the one who was heartbroken when I realized how much I scared my parents, how much I had hurt them. Adam and Eve rebelled against God in a far worse way. It would bring them death as a punishment. It broke the relationship they had with God, but He came looking for them despite their rebellion. God already knew, but asked the question in Genesis 3:11, "*Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?*" Then the excuses started rolling--he did it, she did it, the serpent made me--nobody wanted to take the blame. God pronounced curses on the serpent and on the earth, but He left the promise of a man who would defeat Satan one day and make all things new (see Gen 3:15).

Discussion Questions

- How would you define rebelling? Does scripture define it that way? (see Rom 13:1-7)
- Sinners suffer the same punishment of death and separation from God. How?
- Why do you want to make excuses sometimes?
- What man was promised to make all things new? How?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Adam and Eve were tempted by a serpent to sin. Some have surmised he was a beautiful serpent, and it does not seem to surprise Eve that he talked. Personally, I am not a fan of legless lizards and certainly can't imagine ever stopping long enough to talk to one. While we don't know the details other than what scripture tells us, once tempted, nothing stopped Eve from listening to the serpent. Her heart was set on enjoying the fruit. Who was this serpent? Scripture later reveals in the book of Revelation 20:2 that the serpent was *that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan*. The Bible describes Satan as the father of lies and as a destroyer, but his tactics are also subtle. Paul warned the Corinthians, saying he feared that *as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning*, their thoughts, too, would be *led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ* (2 Corinthians 11:3). But, Christians do not need to despair. Although he prowls around like a lion seeking someone to devour, Satan's temptations can be resisted in Christ. *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you* (James 4:7).

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think Eve kept listening?
- What else do you know about Satan?
- What should we do when we are feeling tempted to do something wrong?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

If Satan is full of lies, why would anybody believe him? What Satan does is twist the truth and make false promises. Satan promised Eve in Genesis 3 that she would *not surely die*. That is the exact opposite of what God said and promised. Not only that, but in the next verse Satan went on to offer something that would appeal to her even more: *For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil*. Wow, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, and then to top it off he tells Eve that God knows this but doesn't want her to find out. Throughout the Bible and all through time there have been false teachers giving false promises. Jude has a stark warning for these false teachers. Jude 12–13 says, "*These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.*" These people do not speak for God, they do not belong to God. Know your Scripture so that you will not be easily led astray by twisted truth and false promises.