

Williams Memorial Virtual Bible Study Questions

The Serpent's Strategy

Genesis 3:1-6

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

1. Reflecting on this passage, what different thoughts and emotions do you think Eve had throughout?

2. In verse 1 the serpent asks Eve, "Did God really say, "You must not eat from any tree in the garden?" How does Satan's version compare with what God really said (see 2:16-17)?

From the way he worded this question, what do you think Satan hoped to accomplish?

3. Why do you think Satan appears to Eve in the form of a serpent (v. 1) instead of showing himself openly?

4. How does Eve's response reveal that Satan's venom is beginning to affect her thinking about God (vv. 2-3)?

5. How can doubting God's generosity make us targets for temptation and sin?

6. Satan's next tactic is to boldly declare, "You will not surely die" (v. 4). Why do you think he lies to Eve about the consequences of sin?

7. Why is it tempting to believe that sin has no consequences? (Give examples, if possible.)

8. In verse 5 Satan goes a step further: "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." "What does this statement imply about both God and sin?"

9. What evidence do you see today that some people believe God is a "cosmic killjoy" and sin is really good for them?

10. In verse 6 the conversation between the serpent and the woman breaks off. How is Satan's tactic at this point similar to the one a waiter uses with the dessert tray?

11. The great reformer Martin Luther once said, "You can't keep the birds from flying over your head, but you can keep them from making a nest in your hair." Why is it dangerous to toy with temptation or to fantasize about it?

Instead of toying or fantasizing, what should you do when you're tempted?