



Broken

January 15, 2012

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.

If God is good and powerful, why does he allow so much evil and pain? Although the Bible doesn't answer this question directly, it shows how sin and its consequences entered the world.

With your Bible or Youversion.com read Genesis 3:1-21

Genesis 2 leaves the man and woman in Eden at peace with God, themselves and the natural world over which they had been given stewardship. They had the freedom to fulfill this responsibility and eat any fruit in the garden, with one exception. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil would be the test of their obedience to the Creator.

- How does the serpent's question to the woman, especially its wording, illustrate his craftiness?
- How does the woman's answer misrepresent God's command? What might this reveal?
- The serpent becomes more direct in vs. 4-5. What statements does he make about his purpose and results of the command? In what ways does Satan try to deceive us today about the consequences and benefits of sin?
- How has the serpent distorted the woman's thinking? What pros and cons does she face in the decision which now confronts her?
- How did the couple's sin immediately affect their attitude toward themselves, each other and God?
- The man and woman made several flawed choices: they listened to a creature instead of the Creator, followed their own impressions against his instructions, doubted God's concern for their best interests and made self-fulfillment their goal. In what ways have any of these led you to

disobey a command of God?

- What consequences does God proclaim on the three parties in chapter 3?
- Using your message noteguide read other Bible passages that related similar consequences. What are some ways you see these same consequences in our world today?

Read 1 Samuel 3:10; Ezekiel 34:11; and Deuteronomy 32:10.

In Genesis 3 we not only witness God's pronouncement of the consequences of the man and woman's sinful choice but we also see a God who seeks and provides.

- Since God is all knowing he would have known that the couple had sinned and where they were hiding. Why do you think he called to them?
- The scripture is full of stories where God's calls to people. Which ones do you remember? How do you recognize when God is reaching out to you?
- Even while broken by sin what does God provide for the couple? What has he provided for you?

My Next Step Today Is To . . .

- Give my life to the one who reaches out to me in my brokenness..
- Ask God for wisdom so that I will make right rather than flawed choices..
- Give thanks to God because he sought me, forgave me and is providing for me.
- Meditate on and/or memorize Ezekiel 34:11

Talk It Over with God:

These prayer tips can guide your time alone with God each day. Praying with a friend or a small group might help you stick to it.

- Take the time to ask God to seek your heart to see if there are any lies of the tempter that you are believing? Ask for a mind and heart that recognizes the difference/
- Spend time praising God for all he has provided for you, even when you were far from him.