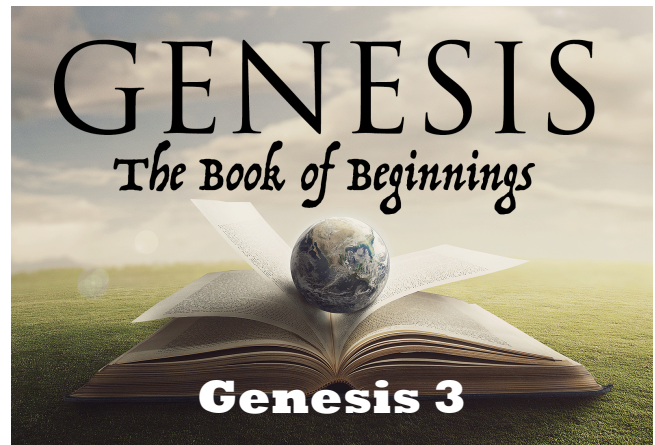


## 2 • The Beginning of Sin

Unfortunately, not all beginnings are good. While we're told nine different times in [Genesis 1](#) and [2](#) about what was good in God's creation, [Genesis 3](#) is our introduction to evil.

Now the \_\_\_\_\_ was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. ([3:1](#))



Let's listen very carefully to the serpent's words because what we're listening to is the beginning of sin—mankind's greatest problem.

He said to the woman, "Did God \_\_\_\_\_ say, 'You shall not eat of \_\_\_\_\_ tree in the garden?'" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will \_\_\_\_\_ surely die. For God \_\_\_\_\_ that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ([3:1-5](#))

What is the serpent doing in that pivotal moment? He's:

- ~ Challenging God's \_\_\_\_\_
- ~ Twisting God's \_\_\_\_\_
- ~ Lying about the \_\_\_\_\_ of disobeying God
- ~ Encouraging Eve to \_\_\_\_\_ God's goodness

And what happened?

So when the woman \_\_\_\_\_ that the tree was good for food, and that it was a \_\_\_\_\_ to the eyes, and that the tree was to be \_\_\_\_\_ to make one wise, she \_\_\_\_\_ of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then... ([3:6-7](#))

What follows is an ever-expanding description of the ripple effects of sin. For the very first time...

- ~ Adam and Eve experience \_\_\_\_\_ ([3:7](#))
- ~ They try to \_\_\_\_\_ from God ([3:8](#))
- ~ They \_\_\_\_\_ someone else ([3:9-13](#))
- ~ They will suffer bitter \_\_\_\_\_ ([3:16-19](#))
- ~ Something \_\_\_\_\_ to cover them ([3:21](#))
- ~ A separation is created between them and the tree of \_\_\_\_\_ ([3:22-24](#))

Life on earth would never be the same. But even here, in one of the saddest chapters of the Bible, a glimmer of hope can be found. In his pronouncement of judgment on the serpent, the LORD God said:

"I will put \_\_\_\_\_ between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring;  
he shall bruise your \_\_\_\_\_,  
and you shall bruise his \_\_\_\_\_." ([3:15](#))

Eventually, someone would come and crush the head of that deceitful serpent.

## For Class & Family Discussion:

- Can we be certain about the identity of the serpent? If so, how?
  
- Let's think about the “crafty” description in 3:1. What impression should that word make on us?
  
- We highlighted four tactics that the serpent used in 3:1-5. Do those tactics still get used today? If so, how?
  
- Is there anything we can learn from the vivid description of temptation in 3:6?
  
- Let's take our time with 3:8-24 and really work to understand the serious impact of sin's introduction into God's good world.
  - According to 3:8, what has changed? *Why* has it changed?
  
  - According to 3:12, how does the beginning of sin impact the first marriage?
  
  - What began in 3:14-15?
  
  - What began in 3:16?
  
  - What began in 3:17-21?
  
  - On the flip side, what ended in 3:22-24? What difference does that make?
  
- What should we make of God's promise in 3:15? Why is that verse worth remembering? How is the promise eventually fulfilled?