



## Group Leader Guide

Series: Till Death Do Us Part – Week 3

Scripture: Genesis 3

### ***Leader Notes:***

This week we are going back, waaaaaaay back. All the way back to the beginning, Genesis 3. The main point of the week for those leading a group is to point couples to fight for their marriage, not with their spouse.

Leaders, remember to lead with a transparent and authentic heart as we discuss a difficult topic.

### ***Bottom Line:***

We are called to fight for our marriage, but not with our spouse.

### ***Introduction:***

Genesis 3 is a strange text. There are talking snakes, naked people, and a decision surrounding a piece of fruit that changed the course of human history. As we come to such a strange text it is important that we see through some of the distractions to see what God is actually telling us.

Consider just a few major points:

1. No one listened to God.

God created the garden, created Adam and Eve, and established a life of paradise for them. He gave them only one rule. DO NOT EAT OF THE FRUIT OF THE TREE IN THE MIDST OF THE GARDEN.

Well as the story unfolds, Eve listens to the snake, Adam listens to Eve and no one listens to God. Trouble in life and trouble in marriage starts when we tune our ears to sources other than God.

2. Sin starts by believing there is something better out there than what God has given you.

Notice when the problem begins to develop for Adam and Eve. Sin is born in their heart when they choose not to look at all that God had given them, but instead at the one thing he had not given them. As they looked, they started to believe, “maybe God is holding out on us.” We sin anytime we look to the things God has told us is off limits in order to find a sense of fulfillment we think we are missing. As it relates to marriage, this is how all affairs start, by looking to someone else and saying, “I think that would be better.”

3. Sin is multiplied when we refuse to take ownership.

When God confronts Adam and Eve, they have a decision to make. They can own their failures and repent of their sin, or they can shift the blame. They chose the latter. Adam blames Eve. Eve blames the snake. This pattern is now instilled in all of our hearts. When we do wrong, just blame someone else.

It's clear to see how this applies to marriage. Disagreements turn into arguments, arguments into irreconcilable differences, and irreconcilable differences turn into divorce when people make mistakes and refuse to own up to them.

This is a strange passage in a way, in another way it's completely normal, it's our everyday experience.

**BELONG – Begin by allowing the group a time to connect and care for one another! Take prayer requests and start the group in prayer.**

Ice Breaker Questions:

If you could have been there, in the garden, with Adam and Eve before they ate the fruit, what would you have told them to make them stop?

\*\*\* To the singles in the group, it's ok not to be married. Approach this series to learn about marriage in the knowledge that you are in a different place in life.

**BELIEVE – Take time to study the Bible together.**

**3** Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" <sup>2</sup> And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> 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.'" <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup> For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

<sup>8</sup> And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup> He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup> Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

<sup>14</sup> The Lord God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,  
cursed are you above all livestock  
and above all beasts of the field;  
on your belly you shall go,  
and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring;  
he shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise his heel."

<sup>16</sup> To the woman he said,

"I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;  
in pain you shall bring forth children.  
Your desire shall be contrary to your husband,

but he shall rule over you.”

<sup>17</sup> And to Adam he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife  
and have eaten of the tree  
of which I commanded you,  
‘You shall not eat of it,’  
cursed is the ground because of you;  
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;  
<sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;  
and you shall eat the plants of the field.  
<sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your face  
you shall eat bread,  
till you return to the ground,  
for out of it you were taken;  
for you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.”

<sup>20</sup> The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. <sup>21</sup> And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

<sup>22</sup> Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” <sup>23</sup> therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. <sup>24</sup> He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

[\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ge 3:1–24.

### **Teaching Points:**

- Never, never, never, take fruit from a talking snake.
- Sin starts when we look to all that God has not given us and believe that he is holding out on us.
- Repentance starts by owning our mistakes.
- What we are willing to uncover before God, God in his grace will cover for us.

### **Questions For Discussion**

What does this passage teach us about God’s design for marriage?

How does this passage show us how temptation works in our life?

Why is it so hard for us to take ownership of our failures in life?

Why is Genesis 3:15 encouraging to us in a passage with so much failure?

How does this passage teach us that God can cover our shame better than we can?

Why does Satan start temptation by attacking what God said?

**BECOME – Make application and determine to follow Christ better.**

Close the group by praying for God to protect those who are married and make their marriages strong. For those who are not married, who are single, never married, or divorced, ask God to give them wisdom to live for his kingdom as fully as possible in this season.