



SDG Discussion Guide

Genesis 2-3
August 13, 2017

For starters:

Fantasize about living anywhere in the world; where would that be and why?

When you were a kid, what was “off limits” to you and why?

What food do you find especially tempting?

Interaction with the text (The following questions are meant to provide points of interaction with the respective sermon text. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday; or, group members may find these questions in print on that Sunday. Further, feel free to facilitate your own discussion regarding the respective text.)

1. What does this story say to you about the nature of men and women?

Men and women need each other? Men and women are created with unique authority and responsibility? Men are task-oriented and women are relational? Men and women are more alike than different? Other? Discuss.

2. What are the messages you are seeing in this passage? Humans are unique from the rest of creation? Man needs woman and vice versa? We have God-given duties? We are important to God? Other? Discuss.

3. What human vulnerabilities did the serpent exploit as he convinced Eve to taste the forbidden fruit? Greed? Hunger? Unbelief? Pride? Selfishness? Wanting to be like God? Discuss.

4. How can something “good” -- the nourishment and knowledge conveyed by the fruit -- be wrong when it feels so good?

5. What could the previous question imply to a “do-what-feels-good” attitude or culture?

6. From this story, how would you define sin and its consequences?

7. Why would God allow Adam and Eve to fail when tempted? What does this say about God and his design of creation? About what he wants of us?

8. How easy is it for you to admit when you are wrong? Can you think of three words harder to see than “I am sorry”?

Take some time to pray as a group. Perhaps split into pairs or a smaller group. Thank God for the further understanding of the “big picture” of creation and our place within it. Pray for even further insight -- how your life fits in with your environment and the web of people that make up your community. Ask the Holy Spirit to come and help you once more to turn to him. Ask God to be able to see yourself as he sees you -- as his masterpiece and instrument of faith. Pause ... and realize again God’s affirmation of you as his beloved one, made for his good purpose for both now and the future. Be aware of any relationships that come to mind where there is an opportunity for forgiveness; pray for his knowledge and guidance for that restoration.

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups*.