

2007-08 BSP#3 Group Time Discussion

L – Low, M – Medium, and H – High, indicate the difficulty of a question. Group leaders should select questions that are challenging to their groups but not so difficult that their group members cannot answer.

(A) “He Opened to Us the Scriptures” - Questions for Reflection and Discussion (Time available: 20 minutes. Do at least 2 questions.)

1. [L] Compare what God said according to the serpent in Genesis 3:1 with what God actually said in Genesis 2:16-17. How did the serpent change the wording and tone of God’s commandment? If you were there when it happened, how would you react to God’s commandment as related to you by the serpent and His commandment according to Genesis 2:16-17? (The purpose of this question is to help you understand how Satan, the father of lie, twisted God’s words around; and how, in doing so, he alienated man from God.)
2. [M] In the moment of temptation, the man and the woman did not see God. They only saw the serpent, the tree, and each other. What should their knowledge of God have enabled them to do? (Read Hebrew 11:1-3 to see that what we need is faith and the ability to see the invisible through the visible.) Put this in the context of your own life, what can you learn from the mistake of our first parents?
3. [H] St. Paul refers to idolatry as a behavior that “worshiped the creature rather than the creator” (Romans 1:25). Read also St. John’s warning against idolatry in 1John 2:15-16. Now, read Genesis 3:6. In what way do you think Eve had committed the sin of idolatry? Put this in the context of your own habits and behaviors. To what extent are you making the same mistake?

(B) “Did Not Our Hearts Burn?” – Question(s) for Group Meditation and Prayer (Suggested time: 10 minutes)

What an irony it is that the key player in Genesis 3:1-6 is the one from whom we hear nothing. Adam was the one who could have put an end to this insurrection. He had been put in charge of the Garden, and he knew that God had said that eating the forbidden fruit would kill them. He had firsthand experience of the kindness, goodness, and wisdom of God when he was lonely and in need of a helper. By His Word and by His actions, God had revealed Himself to be devoted to the happiness and well-being of His creatures. Yet when the serpent appeared and began his conversation with the woman, Adam remained silent. He made no attempt to fight for God’s honor or to protect his bride.

Reflect on Adam’s character and behavior as portrayed in the first few chapters of Genesis. Compare him with yourself, particularly in your personal relationship with God, your spouse, your family members, and your friends; and in how you react to contemporary social problems such as social injustice, poverty, abortion, pornography, homosexuality, and other anti-life assertions that our society has come to embrace. Does Adam bear any resemblance to you? Share one or two personal failures in the above areas with your group members.

Now, the group facilitator will ask all group members to pause for a 30 to 45-second silent personal prayer to offer up your repentance and seek God’s forgiveness.