

Sermon Growth Guide

August 20, 2023

Lead Me Home - Tempted to Leave

Genesis 3:1-13

Key Verse: Genesis 3:1

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"

Big Idea: Where is your heart tempted to walk away from God and His good plans?



Foundations

Why is it that we always seem to think we know best for our lives? Theologically, we know the right answer, "God knows best; we should trust God." Yet, functionally, we wander away - again and again and again. Our race is an apple biting race, unending apple indulging! Until Christ, by His power, takes mistrust completely out of our souls forevermore, we are prone to wander away; we are tempted to leave.

The lies we bite into the quickest are the 'two truths and a lie' sorts of lies, the lies that come wrapped in fine linen. "The serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made," our text this week reads. It's a horror movie, really. To be attacked by an adversary so cunning and hellbent, this scene in Genesis 3 is horrific.

God creates us free and with an astonishing level of agency, opportunity to choose for ourselves. Recall Joshua's famous words, "choose this day whom you will serve, but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Pray together that the Spirit weed out the areas in your life where you are compromising truth for a lie. Pray for protection from evil, wisdom to understand the truth, and resolve to fight to stand on righteousness. Pray deeply for one another.

Understanding God's Word

Together, read Genesis 3:1-13.

Centering on verses four and five, why do you think Eve trusted the serpent?

Where is Eve's focus in verse six? What would have been a better point of focus?

Adam seems to have blindly accepted Eve's gift. What's going on here? Where was his focus?

Applying God's Word

And now what about you? Where is your heart tempted to walk away from God and His good plans for your life?

How can you cultivate better focus in your life, better safeguards, better wisdom as you walk in a world where the serpent seeks to kill you? Knowing "the serpent" is still loose, how can you walk wiser?

Witnessing God's Word

Given today's theme, in what ways can the Church reflect the love of Jesus to walk lives of faithfulness and wisdom? How can you better model Kingdom faithfulness and wisdom to those who observe you living your life?