



God's perfect creation in the garden, in all of its beauty, harmony, and peace, was corrupted in an instant, by the introduction of sin. The effects of the fall were instantaneous, and have continued their seductive contamination throughout history ever since.

***Read God's Word: Genesis 3:1-24***

*(If you can, try reading this from a couple of translations. If you're in a group, have a couple of different people read it out loud. Then, have someone in the group retell it out loud in their own words. If you're on your own, try doing this out loud as well. It is such an incredible practice in learning to hide the Scriptures in our heart.)*

**Questions:**

**Here are 3 discipleship-focused questions to ask now that you've read the story:**

1. What do we learn about God in this story?
2. What do you think God is teaching people in this story?
3. What do you think Jesus might be teaching you personally?
4. How does this story help you teach others about what it means to follow Jesus?

After the man and woman strayed from God's perfect plan and ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they covered themselves and hid, because they were ashamed. To this day, we all still feel the shame, blame and pain that entered into humanity on that fateful day.

***Life Application:***

1. How does God lovingly respond to Adam and Eve's sin, and how might that change how you approach God when you have messed up?
2. In what ways did Adam and Eve respond to God and one another in this story? In what ways are people still doing these things today?
3. In what other ways do you see the effects of the Fall affecting society today?
4. In what ways can we act differently from Adam and Eve to be part of God's redeeming work in the world?

**Make it Personal:**

**All the man and woman had ever known from God was love, peace, and relationship, yet they still hid from Him when they had done wrong. Is there an area of your life that you are hiding from God, that you need to open up to his love so he can restore peace and relationship?**

***Prayer:***

**Father, thank You for the grace You extended in the garden, and for the grace You extend to me. Help me to respond to Your call for relationship in spite of my guilt and shame, knowing that You love me and desire to be with me. Thank You for the work You have done, and continue to do, to restore the beauty and peace You created in the garden. May I sense those same things in my life as I draw close to You, and may I extend that same beauty, peace, and grace to those around me. Amen.**

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