

Middle School Discussion Guide

Where Did Things Go Wrong? For the week of April 18 - 24, 2021

Read Genesis 3:1-13 if you need to refresh.

Giving in to temptation is a choice.

As Eve listened to the serpent, she was convinced. The tree was beautiful and the fruit was delicious. She wanted it. She weighed her option of eating it or not, and chose to sink her teeth into the very fruit God had instructed her not to eat. The sin wasn't that she was tempted; the sin was giving in to the temptation. Temptation isn't a sin—the Bible tells us that even Jesus was tempted. It's something we all deal with, even after we become followers of Jesus. But we must decide if we will reject and resist the temptation, or give in to it.

- Imagine that your biggest temptation is pepperoni pizza. Why would you have a tough time resisting that temptation if you hung out in pizza shops every day?
- The Bible doesn't say if that was the first time Eve had gone close to the tree she was supposed to avoid—do you think it was the first time? Why or why not?
- How can a series of small choices put you in the position where you're too weak to resist temptation? Share an example from your life, if you're willing.

Our actions are shaped by our trust decisions.

Even though God had perfectly shown his love and protection, Adam and Eve chose to put their trust in the crafty serpent—they chose to believe his lie. Satan's lie was the same lie that he tries to tell you: You can sin and get away with it; consequences do not apply to you; God is withholding good things from you. Adam and Eve both chose to sin and disobey God. Their choice to trust the serpent instead of trusting God resulted in destructive decisions and separation from God.

Turn over for continuation

- How do you decide which people to trust—and which ones to not trust?
- Tell us about someone you deeply trust—and how that person has earned your trust.
- How did the serpent twist the truth in the first few verses of our passage?

Sin separates us from God's best.

When Adam and Eve's "eyes were opened," they felt shame because they were naked. Suddenly, Adam and Eve experienced things they hadn't dealt with before. They felt shame. Now they were separated from God—and they hid from God.

- Why do we sometimes make bad choices when we feel ashamed or embarrassed?
- How do we "hide from God" when we feel ashamed?
- Look at verses 8-13. Why do you think God asked Adam and Eve a series of questions to which He already knew the answers?

We constantly feel the effects of sin. But there is good news—and we'll talk about this in more detail next time. Jesus is the solution to our sin problem. He is the one who can restore our relationship with God. God created the world and it was good. Sin entered the world and things became broken. But thanks to Jesus, things can be restored and made right.

Find a quiet spot in your area for a few minutes of prayer and reflection. After, pray together as a group.