

SERIES DISCUSSION GUIDE

EDENOLOGY

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SERIES CONTEXT

Edenology, a series walking through Genesis 1–3 to recover the story of what God made, what went wrong, and what He has been doing ever since to make it right.

Week 1: **God Made It Good**. Creation was good. Human beings were made as image-bearers, given dignity, purpose, and belonging in a world designed for God's presence.

Week 2: **Shame Seeks to Destroy**. The fall introduced shame, the fear of being fully known and fully rejected. Shame drives us into hiding, and the most heartbreaking image in Scripture is God walking through the garden calling 'Where are you?' while His people hide.

Week 3: **The Original Gospel**. We look at God's response to the fall. Even on the worst day in human history, God was already announcing a rescue plan.

MESSAGE RECAP

We finished the story of Genesis 3 and looked at what happens after sin enters the world. Even in this moment, we see something powerful: God's heart is not against us, but for us. Before addressing Adam and Eve, God addresses the serpent and speaks the very first promise of hope: one day, a Savior would come to defeat sin and restore what was lost. From the very beginning, God was already working toward redemption.

Life might feel like we're living outside of what God originally intended, but don't miss this: He never walked away. Every page of Scripture tells the story of a God who is restoring what was broken, and that story finds its fulfillment in Jesus. The message reminds us: God is not mad at you. He loves you and He has been working from the very beginning to bring you back into a relationship with Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you hear the word *consequences*, what's your first reaction (fear, frustration, acceptance, something else)?

2. When you think about God, do you tend to picture Him as disappointed, distant, compassionate, loving, or something else? What is one thing that has shaped that view of Him?
3. Read Genesis 3:14-15. What stands out to you about who God talks to first?
 - What might that tell us about who the real enemy is?
4. Read Genesis 16-19. The message made clear that these consequences are not God being cruel, but the result of a broken world.
 - What consequences of sin do you see listed here?
 - Where do these realities show up in life?
5. Read Genesis 3:20. Adam names his wife Eve, which means “living,” following the pronouncement of judgment.
 - What stands out to you about this moment, especially after everything that just happened?
 - What might this reveal about what Adam believed about God? (*Adam’s response reflects trust in God’s promise (v.15-16) that life would still come, even despite the consequences of sin.*)
6. Read Genesis 3:21-24.
 - What does this moment reveal about God’s character?
 - Why is it significant that God Himself provides the covering for Adam and Eve?
7. God did not leave Adam and Eve to fend for themselves after the garden.
 - How does knowing God provided for them even after the fall shape the way you view this part of the story?
 - How might this truth speak into your life right now?
8. Sometimes we interpret difficult seasons as God being distant or upset with us.
 - Where are you most tempted to believe that?
 - What truth from what we’ve read pushes back against that?
9. Throughout Genesis 3, we see both the consequences of sin and the kindness of God on display at the same time. What can happen if we focus on only the consequences or only God’s kindness?

APPLICATION QUESTION (*This section is designed to invite group members to reflect on and do on their own.*)

10. Where do you need to be reminded that even though life feels outside of what was originally intended in Eden, God has not abandoned you? That He is still good and at work in restoring what was broken?

CLOSING PRAYER

Your closing prayer can include:

God, thank You for showing us that even in brokenness, Your heart is still for us. Help us trust Your love, especially in hard seasons, and remind us that we are never abandoned. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

LEADERS: Our last week of the Sermon Discussion Guide is 3/29. If your group will continue meeting and you need group studies, email Melissa, Michaele or Whitney!