



Sermon Notes and Study Questions

Where Fear Begins

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?’”

² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’ ”

⁴ “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰ He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

¹¹ And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

¹² The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

Genesis 3:1-13

Notes:

Introduction: A World Filled with Fear

- There is reason for fear
- But our fears are probably always inordinate
- God Desire: Be Strong and Courageous

The Origin of our Inordinate Fears

- The Back Drop of Genesis 3

- The Progress towards Fear
 - Doubting God's Goodness

 - Twisting Truth

 - Resenting Restrictions

 - Denial of Consequences

Fear Activated: Flight

The Folly of Fleeing from God in Fear

- The Power of God

- This is Hell

- The Love of God

Conclusion:

Discussion Questions:

1. Share with your Life Group about a time when you were really afraid. What were the circumstances that lead to this fear?
2. What do you think is your common fear? How do you think it is shaping the way you live?
3. What are some examples of healthy fears and unhealthy fears?
4. What were the initial conditions of the life in the Garden of Paradise with God?
5. What is your reaction to the idea that fear begins with the break of relationship with God? What does this tell us about overcoming fear?
6. What do you think of the idea that because with Jesus God is with and for us, the universe is an absolutely safe place for us to be? What does this indicate about the relationship between faith and fear?
7. The progress towards fear was not just a single action but a series of deceptions seeking to undercut faith in the goodness of God. As you look at the list of tactics used by the enemy, which ones work the best on you and why do you think they are effective? Which temptations are easier for you to overcome and why?
8. In the message, it was stated that running away from God in fear is folly. What arguments do you find convincing that that running away from God is folly? Can you think of a time when running away from God makes sense?
9. What are two or three key ideas that you can take away from reflecting on Genesis 3 and the origin of our fears?
10. As we prepare to grow in our ability to face fear with wisdom and grace over the next month, what are one or two areas of fear in your own life where you would like to make progress (having less inordinate fear and more courage and strength)?
11. How can we pray and encourage one another to live more faith and less by fear?