



FOUNDATIONS • COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY • GENESIS 3

When Everything Fell Apart

A guided conversation from the September 27, 2026 sermon by Kent Keller

SUMMARY

Week three of Foundations is the week everything falls apart. Kent Keller walked us into Genesis 3 and the serpent's oldest strategy, which has not changed in thousands of years: first he misrepresents what God said — 'Did God actually say...?' — then he flatters our pride, and finally he whispers that God does not really mean it. Kent called this the great dividing line of all Scripture: either there is a God who is not us and has something to say about how we live, or every road simply leads wherever we please. Under every temptation is the same question — who will we believe, God or somebody else?

The woman saw that the tree was good for food, a delight to the eyes, desirable to make one wise — and she took and ate. Kent called it the first postmodern decision: feelings over facts, appetite over what God had plainly said. And he would not let Adam off the hook. Adam was right there, 'with her,' and said nothing — his sin was twofold: he believed the lie and he stood passive when he should have led. Their eyes did open, just as the serpent promised, but not to glory — to shame. They sewed fig leaves and hid, managing their guilt alone among the trees.

Then came the most unexpected sound in the story: God walking into the garden, calling, 'Where are you?' He could have scrapped the whole experiment and begun again; instead the offended one takes the first step and comes looking for the ones who fled. Before man ever went looking for God, Kent reminded us, God came looking for man — grace walking in right behind sin. And in the middle of the curse, spoken to the serpent, falls the first promise of the gospel: one of the woman's offspring will crush the enemy's head. To cover their shame, something innocent had to die — a shadow of the cross thrown back to the beginning. When Adam and Eve took that first bite, Kent said, Jesus packed his bags for Bethlehem. Genesis 3 is not only the day everything fell apart; it is the day rescue was announced.

PRAYER

OPENING PRAYER

Father, we come to the hardest chapter honestly. We know the serpent's question because we have heard it in our own hearts, and we know the hiding because we have done it. As we open Genesis 3, do what you did in the garden — come looking for us. Meet us where we are ashamed, and let us hear, underneath the curse, the first promise of rescue. We are listening. Amen.

START ICE BREAKER

Think of a time you knew the right thing to do and talked yourself out of it anyway. What was the 'reasonable' voice telling you in the moment?

SCRIPTURE KEY SCRIPTURES

GENESIS 3:1 (ESV)

Genesis 3:1 (ESV) Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

GENESIS 3:6 (ESV)

Genesis 3:6 (ESV) So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

GENESIS 3:7 (ESV)

Genesis 3:7 (ESV) Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

GENESIS 3:9 (ESV)

Genesis 3:9 (ESV) But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

GENESIS 3:15 (ESV)

Genesis 3:15 (ESV) I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

DISCUSS DISCUSSION

01 SERIES-AHEAD • DID GOD ACTUALLY SAY?

The serpent does not open with a lie. He opens with a question: "Did God actually say...?" What is a question like that you have heard — from someone else, or from yourself?

02 SERIES-AHEAD • WHERE ARE YOU?

God's first words after everything breaks are "Where are you?" — and he already knows. Why ask instead of accuse?

03 SERIES-AHEAD • WHERE BLAME COMES EASIEST

The man blames the woman and God in one sentence; the woman blames the serpent. Where does blame come easiest to you?

04 THE SERPENT'S STRATEGY

Read Genesis 3:1. Kent traced the serpent's three moves: he misrepresents what God said, flatters our pride, then whispers that God doesn't really mean it. Which of those three do you most often fall for — and where is it working on you right now?

05 FEELINGS OVER FACTS

Read Genesis 3:6. Eve saw that the fruit was good, a delight, desirable — and went with what looked good in the moment. Kent called it the first postmodern decision: appetite over what God had plainly said. Where are you currently letting what looks good outvote what God has clearly said?

06 ADAM WAS RIGHT THERE

Read Genesis 3:6 again — Adam was 'with her,' and said nothing. Kent said his sin was twofold: he believed the lie and he stood passive when he should have led. Where has God given you something to protect that you've been letting slide in silence?

07 FIG LEAVES

Read Genesis 3:7. Their eyes opened to shame, and they sewed fig leaves and hid. What are the 'fig leaves' you reach for to cover and manage your guilt alone, instead of bringing it into the light?

08 HE CAME LOOKING FIRST

Read Genesis 3:9 and 3:15. Before anyone went looking for God, God came looking — and in the same breath as the curse he promised a Redeemer. How does it change your picture of God to know he takes the first step toward the ones who are still hiding?

APPLY

THIS WEEK

Pick one. Do it before you meet again.

- 1 Name the question** This week, catch the serpent's old question when it comes — 'Did God actually say?' — dressed up as reason, freedom, or your own good sense. Name it out loud, and answer it the way Eve did not: God has spoken, he made you, and he means what he says.
- 2 Refuse the passive silence** Where has God given you something to protect — a marriage, a friendship, a room full of people — and where have you stood by 'with her,' saying nothing? Take one concrete step this week to speak truth and lead instead of staying passive.
- 3 Stop hiding** Name one place you are hiding — behind performance, distraction, or a sin you are sure disqualifies you. Bring it into the light this week: tell God plainly, and tell one trusted person in this group. He already knows the worst and is coming toward you anyway.

Come back next week ready to say what happened, not what you intended.

REMEMBER

REMEMBER

- ▶ The serpent's oldest move is a question — 'Did God actually say?' — that turns trust into doubt. The real issue under every temptation is who we will believe.
- ▶ Adam's sin was twofold: he believed the lie and he stood passive. Silence, where God calls us to lead, is its own kind of disobedience.
- ▶ Shame makes us sew fig leaves and hide — but God walks into the garden and calls us by name. He comes looking first.
- ▶ In the same breath as the curse, God promised a Redeemer. When Adam fell, Jesus packed his bags for Bethlehem.

Genesis 3 is not only the day everything fell apart — it is the day rescue was announced. Before you ever went looking for God, he came looking for you.

PRAYER

CLOSING PRAYER

God who came walking into the garden, thank you that you did not wait for us to clean ourselves up. You came looking while we were still hiding, and in the same breath as the curse you promised a rescuer. Free us from the serpent's old question, from passive silence, and from covering our shame alone. We stop hiding. Here we are. Lead us to the cross where the serpent's head was crushed. Amen.



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