



FACILITATOR'S GUIDE—YOUTH

Year 3—The God Who Pursues Relationship: A Story of God's People

Module 1—Genesis Part 1

Lesson 3: God's People Rebel—Genesis 3

ENCOUNTER 1—Community Discussion

Read Genesis 3 together out loud as a group. Encourage each person to journal through the passage using these questions. After allowing sufficient time for reflection, invite the group to share their thoughts.

How is this God's story?

How is this others' story?

How is this my story?

How is this the world's story?

ENCOUNTER 2—Community Discussion

(Read the biblical reflection included with this lesson. The questions are designed for your group to enter into a meaningful dialogue about the Scriptures. The bulleted teaching points are taken from the reflection and correspond to the questions.)

GOD'S STORY

What do you think it meant that God walked in the garden?

- The “sound” Adam and Eve heard was the presence of God.

What did humankind do when they disobeyed God?

- When Adam and Eve chose to exercise their free will and usurp God's authority, the world was no longer whole as God had created it.
- The relationship that God had desired from humankind was short lived. Instead of choosing to love God, humankind chose to love self.

OUR STORY

What do Adam and Eve do when they feel shame because of their sin?

- When Adam and Eve learn of their nakedness (3:7-10) they are overwhelmed with feelings of shame. Shame is the very emotion that drives Adam and Eve to put on clothes.
- This feeling of disgrace drives Adam and Eve to take cover. Shame is personal and it can only bring regret into reality.

OTHERS' STORY

What does this shame turn into for Adam and Eve?

- This shame, and the regret that comes with it, causes Adam to hold both God and Eve responsible for the disobedience (3:12).
- Adam declares it is God's fault since He made the women from his rib and put her with him. He also blames Eve for being the one to pass it on. Eve blames the serpent. In both cases the now natural tendency to feel shame produces the byproduct to blame others and attribute fault with everyone but self.

THE WORLD'S STORY

What are three ways that humans will battle evil?

- There are three levels in which humankind will battle with evil: a personal level, a societal level and on the world at large.

PRAYER

(Lead your group in corporate prayer)

God, we bow our heads and heart before you. We confess that at times we forget that we are Yours. We also confess that sometimes we live as if there is no God. In doing so, we cannot be credible witness to You. We ask Your forgiveness from these shortcomings. We also ask for Your wisdom and strength. Give us open minds, open hearts and open hands so that we may be an effective witness to Your love in our world. Amen.

WEEKLY PRACTICE

(Read the weekly practice out loud, and challenge your group to practice *missio* beyond today.)

Each day this week name at least one thing you have either found shame in or blamed another for. For example, are you feeling a sense of shame over a particular sin? Have you blamed someone at school or in your home that shouldn't have been blamed? After you name these issues in your life, write a prayer to God asking Him to help you remember that through Jesus Christ and our relationship with Him, there is no reason why we need to live in shame or live by blaming others.

BECOMING MY STORY

(Encourage the group to spend time this week in God's Word, allowing it to penetrate their heart and life.)

Thessalonians 4:1-12

I John 2:15-17

Spend time this week reading and journaling through the above scriptures. Reflect on how the passage is God's story, my story, others' story and the world's story. In the context of Genesis 3, consider the following questions:

How are these Scripture passages related to the message in Genesis 3?

How do these scriptures tell us about the story of God being continued from Genesis 3?

What is God saying to you through these passages?

Consider other passages you might know related to Genesis 3 and read them this week, journaling as you go.