

# **“The Beginning of Sin”**

## The Beginning of Everything Series

### Genesis 3: 1-24

#### **Intro:**

- a. React to the quote from Mark Twain.... Do you agree? What is it about “forbidden pleasures” that seems to make them so appealing?

*“There is a charm about the forbidden that makes it unspeakably desirable.”*  
— Mark Twain

- b. C.S Lewis argues that chronically bad people know very little about being bad—because it comes so naturally to them. As those trying to be good, what could we as a group general state we know for certain about evil and behaving badly?

*“That is why bad people, in one sense, know very little about badness. They have lived a sheltered life by always giving in.”* — C.S. Lewis

#### **1. Hook:**

- a. Consider “false advertising” for a moment. Why do we call it “false” advertising and what makes something false advertising? Why does it seem to work?
- b. Could we argue that Satan is the master of false advertising?
1. The devil uses impressive means to seduce us.
  2. The devil attacks through the back door—often unnoticed.
  3. The devil creates doubts about God’s standards.
  4. The devil encourages us to reject warnings.
  5. The devil stokes discontent within us.
  6. The devil promotes selfishness and independence.
  7. The devil appeals to sensual lusts.
- c. How do you see false advertising playing out in Genesis 3?

#### **2. Look:**

- a. Read I Peter 5: 8. What role does Satan play in urging and tempting us to sin?
- b. Read 2 Cor. 2: 11. How can we be aware of the devil's schemes?
- c. What is the devil's playbook according to James 1: 13-15?
- d. If you like U2, consider playing a bit of the song, "Desire."
- e. Would you agree that the root of our sin problem comes from unbridled desires?
- f. Read Galatians 5: 17. Why does our sinful nature have such strong desires?
- g. Read James 4: 1-2. Why do we have such desires with us?
- h. Read I Peter 2: 11. How do we abstain from these desires?

### **3. Book (Gen. 3)**

- a. Read Genesis 3: 1-6.
- b. As a group, remind yourself of some of the background to Genesis 3:
  - *"Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil"* – What was it for?
  - *"Tree of Life"* – What was it for?

#### **Special Focus: The Serpent (Satan)**

→ Means:

→ Original Position:

→ Original Role: (see Job 1)

→ The Fall of Satan and a Third of Angels: (see Rev. 12)

→ Satan's Current Position:

- c. How does Satan use false advertising to portray sin in the best light, and God in the worst light? What does this teach us about evil?
- d. See I John 2: 15-16 and see how this temptation fit all three lustful desires.
- e. What were the consequences of Sin for A & E?
  - 1. Lost innocence never regained.
  - 2. Lives of others damaged.
  - 3. Blame, self-justification and rationalizing begins.
  - 4. Life is harder and joy robbed from the day.
  - 5. The fruit of sin brings discontentment and further rebellion.
- f. Read Genesis 3: 7-13. Why does everyone want to blame someone else?
- g. Read Gen. 3: 14-19. Summarize the curses upon the snake, the woman and the man.
- h. What do you think the curse upon the woman of “desire for husband” means? What do you think, “but he will rule over you” means as well—is that part of the curse also?
- i. Read Gen. 3: 20-24. How is God the loving parent throughout this story?
- j. What does God do in order to clothe man and woman?

#### **4. Took:**

- a. Determine to believe that God has your best interest at heart at all times. Memorize passages from Romans 8 to remind you of the love God has for you.
- b. Journal about your temptations and sin this week. If sin is a heart problem, journal about what is happening in your heart.
- c. Read Augustine’s Confessions. This tells about Augustine’s battle with temptation.
- d. Memorize the 4 Keys to Overcoming Evil:

1. Satan will overrate his products.
2. Satan will devalue the things you have now.
3. Satan will ask you to doubt God's goodness.
4. Satan will encourage you to avoid God's Word.