

Text: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-6

### The Tree:

Tov – Good

Ra – Bad (which can lead to and include evil) – Jeremiah 24:1-2; Psalm 140:1

The tree represents a choice about two different ways of approaching life:

1) Will I allow God to define and guide me in what is good vs. bad?

2) Will I define it myself and pursue my own path?

### The serpent:

Cunning, shrewd, crafty (Genesis 3:1)

The Tempter (Matthew 16:1); Deceiver (Revelation 12:9)

Accuser (Revelation 12:10); Father of lies & murderer (John 8:43-45)

### The strategy of Satan:

- Question the word of God (Genesis 3:1 compared with 2:16)
  - Often by twisting the words of God (see Matthew 4:1-11)
  - Often by including some portion of truth
  
- Question the character of God (Genesis 3:4-5)
  - Question God's trustworthiness (Genesis 3:4)
  
  - Question God's intent (Genesis 3:5)
  
- Entertain & Rationalize Sin (Genesis 3:6; James 1:13-15)

### The protection Jesus-focused community brings

Genesis 3:6 (negative example) vs. Hebrews 10:10-24

\*What is keeping me from joining a life group to find the kind of community that helps me stay rooted and flourishing in the ways of Jesus?

Satan says, "Take and eat" and it leads to destruction. Jesus says, "Take and eat" and it reminds us of our redemption and restoration in Him.

*\*This template is for groups who continue to gather this summer while weekly, sermon-specific life group questions are not being provided.*

Pray: Lay down any distractions, control, fears, etc. that will keep you from fully engaging in your time together.

Looking Back:

What has God been teaching you lately as you've been applying what you're learning about Him?

Looking up:

What about the sermon was challenging, helpful, new, or interesting to you?

Did this sermon cause you to think about any other related Scriptures?

How does this sermon most speak to how you can grow in: Loving God; Loving one another; or Making His love known?

How did this sermon press you into prayer? What did God show you in prayer?

Looking forward:

What step of action is God calling you to take based on this study? How can our life group pray for and support you?

Prayer: How can we be praying for one another? How can we be praying for those in our lives who are far from God but near to us relationally?