

# THINK IT OVER FIRST

Bring it on...

**MONDAY**

Groovy, it's

**TUESDAY**

Be ...

## victorious

**So, here's the story ...**

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'?"

The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 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.'"

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

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. 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.

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. But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

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

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

**Read the story for yourself in Genesis 3:1-11**

**Take it to God**

God knows temptations are a challenge. Let Him into even the darkest parts of your life, where He can work with you to help you overcome those things.



**FRIDAY**

*Finale*

**Don't lay all the blame on everybody else**



**WEEKEND**

*WoodHoo!*

**A.M.**

**Sat.**

**Noon**

**P.M.**

**Sun.**

**Eve**

I know what you may be thinking ... Huh, if only Adam and Eve hadn't made such a mess of things in the beginning humanity wouldn't be so bad off now ...

Well, let me just tell you, yes, we would. Don't be so quick to hate on them we're just like they were. We've all been in that same situation in one way or another — and there has certainly been some point at which we failed miserably, just like they did.

"The devil made me do it," may be a popular phrase people like to claim, but it's just an excuse. Yes, he may be clever and sly, but he can't make you do anything you aren't willing to allow.

Have you ever been tempted? Did you do whatever it was? Was it because you just wanted something or you thought it would be okay as long as you didn't get caught?

The Bible says temptation comes from being "drawn away by your own desires and enticed." (James 1:14) That means every time someone falls to temptation, it's not because it's somebody else's fault. Whoever may have been involved (whether it was another person or the devil or whatever) clearly had a partner in crime — you. Make no mistake, when you are tempted and you fall for it, it's because you chose to give in to it. That's on you.

*Did you know?*

**Did you know that James 1:13-14 says, "When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; But every person is tempted when he is drawn away, enticed and baited by his own evil desire (lust, passions)."**

**Take the heat for your part in the bad choices you make. Own up to your mistakes. God will meet you where you are, as long as you are genuine and sincere about wanting to do better. Repent and don't do it again.**



# So, let's wrap it up



Vicky's  
VIEW

Temptation comes from a selfish desire to have or do something more than doing what God says is right. Adam and Eve both made the choice to disobey God and seek after what they thought they were missing out on.

God will never lead you to want anything more than Him.

As your Creator, He belongs in the top spot in your life. Nothing should be more important to you than Him. When you choose to make your selfish desires more important to you, that's when the trouble really begins.

Selfishness is a hard battle. But it can be overcome, if you let God be the ruler over your life. He won't let you down. In fact, He's trying to protect you from your own demise.

That's why He instructed Adam and Eve to leave that one tree alone. Not because

He didn't want to share His juicy fruit.

If you'll notice, there were three specific things said while Eve is reasoning out whether to choose to go against God's commands.

1.) She was told she would become like God, knowing good and evil;

2.) She saw that the fruit was good to eat and attractive; and

3.) She would be made wise.

Sin falls in these three categories, and they are the battles we still face today.

First, the temptation to become like God (knowing good and evil) is like a lust of the flesh — living life ruled by your senses, usually a desire for physical or emotional forms of satisfaction, pleasure or comfort (like anger, laziness, or gluttony).

Second, the temptation of good and attractive fruit was an example of the lust

of the eyes. It refers to the trap of wanting to possess what we see or find pleasing to look at (like vanity, coveting, or envy).

Third, Eve fell for something we call the pride of life. Pride pushes people to seek excessive greatness or power (like greed, arrogance, or superiority). Though lots of different sin problems stem from these three categories, all of them come from one root issue — putting yourself over your Creator.

While we're talking about choosing self over God's rules, let's go back for a minute and talk about Adam.

He totally threw Eve under the bus, blaming her for his actions.

Some might defend him, saying he was completely misled.

I can't help but think, since God had given Adam the job of tending the garden,

that he had to have at least viewed the fruit on that tree before, so he would have known to avoid that tree.

Obviously it was somehow different or unique, otherwise Eve could've simply picked some and fed it to the guy and he would've been innocent of the charges.

But yet, he isn't in the clear, which means he knew that something wasn't right. He either recognized where it came from or Eve told him what she had done and he didn't want to miss out. Eve did the same. She also played the blame game. She called out the serpent for turning her thoughts to disobedience.

Whatever the case, they all reaped some pretty heavy consequences for putting themselves first.

Beware of the consequences that follow bad decisions.

*Ponder this:*

**How many times have you been tempted to do something you shouldn't this week?**

*Time to take charge of your life:*

*(Fill in the blank ...)*

**\_\_\_\_\_ has been bugging me lately, bringing me down. What can I do to change that? Do I need help from someone else? Who?**

*Something good that happened this week was:*

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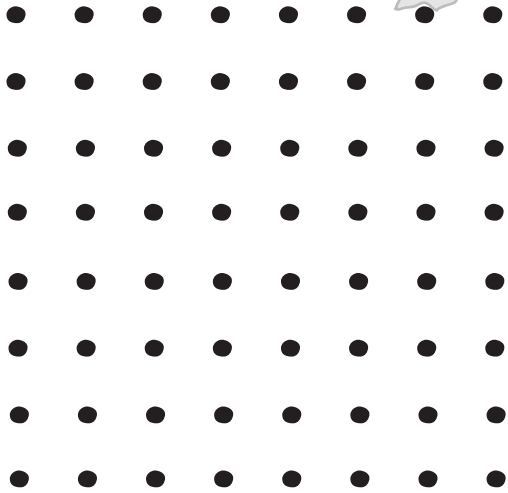
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*Let's read:*

**Genesis 3**

# Claiming the promised land

To play, connect two adjacent (next to each other) dots. Take turns with your opponent. If you complete a square, you get another turn. The one with the most squares at the end of the game wins.



You are ...

# delightful

## Wandering the wilderness

Make your way along the words to make a sentence. Your journey will form one single path. You can only go north, south, east, or west and the path must never cross over itself. Start at the northwest corner and finish at the southeast corner.



**W H Y L L Y**  
**T E G I H T**  
**S E R S I N**  
**O V O T H G**  
**U P T I G S**

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answer on page 335

## Matthew 7:7

answer on page 319

S	E	R	T	P	I	L	C	R	E	W	Y
M	A	P	P	L	E	O	H	G	B	C	N
D	I	W	M	A	D	A	E	G	A	M	I
R	E	E	U	N	F	N	R	O	T	U	G
N	I	K	P	T	E	W	U	T	E	V	E
B	Y	A	A	S	R	I	B	A	H	T	B
D	L	N	I	N	A	N	I	M	A	L	S
S	O	S	M	G	C	O	M	M	A	N	D
J	H	G	K	N	E	M	A	O	R	Y	E

- ADAM  
EVE  
PLANTS  
ANIMALS  
SNAKE  
IMAGE
- APPLE  
NAKED  
COMMAND  
CHERUBIM  
HOLY  
RIB
- GOD  
GENESIS  
EARTH  
NEW  
AMEN  
BEGIN

## Doodle Box

# Discover

answer on page 326

