

**About the Series:** The first 11 chapters of Genesis are foundational to the Christian worldview. But when we read accounts that have similarities to myths and works of fiction, it makes one wonder if the Genesis account is really true or not. This series looks into these chapters to see what the Bible actually says and teaches, and explores the relevancy of its message for us today.

#### Part 3

# The Blame Game

Genesis 3:1-24 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan | Watch▶

### **DISCUSS**

Read Genesis 3:1-24 and discuss the following biblical principles to help you stop playing the blame game and instead live a life of accountability.

- 1. God is never at fault when we sin because His warnings are clear, simple, and precise (v. 1-3).
  - Who was Lucifer? How did he cleverly entice Adam and Eve to disobey God? Didn't they understand God's command that they cannot eat the fruit from a certain tree?
  - Give examples of God's clear commands in the Bible that many Christians fail to obey.
  - In many instances when faced with temptation, a lot of people, including followers of Jesus, would choose to not obey God rather than respond with a confident "no" to the temptation. Why do you suppose that is?
- 2. Believing something to be true or knowing a warning is useless unless it is lived out in action (v. 4-8).

- What was the lie that Satan told Eve? Did Adam and Eve know the difference between good and evil before they ate the fruit?
- Why was the tree named the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil? How was the name of the tree a test of whether they would choose to follow God in goodness or disobey God in evil?
- Sin often seems appealing, but oftentimes people regret and are saddened after doing it. Why do you think this is so? Is it reasonable to blame God for your wrong choices and decisions?
- Why must it be that what you believe as Biblical truths should be accompanied by actions or convictions?

# 3. There is no one to blame when we sin, as each of us are responsible for our own decisions and actions (v. 9-13).

- What happened next that proved that Adam and Eve disobeyed God's clear command? How did they both respond when God confronted them of their disobedience?
- Have you ever played the blame game? How do you respond when someone confronts you about something that you obviously did not do right?
- How did everyone inherit the sin nature from Adam (Romans 5:12)?
  What causes everyone else to be saved from that sin (Romans 5:18-19)?
- 4. Sin always has consequences, some long-lasting, but God's grace and love are available when we ask for forgiveness (v. 14-24).
  - What were the consequences of Adam and Eve's disobedience?
    What was the consequence for the snake? What hint of the gospel hope is seen in verse 15?
  - Do you believe that all sin has consequences? What should you do, then, to avoid those consequences?
  - How did God still show His love for Adam and Eve in spite of their sin? How is the temporary death of those who place their trust in Jesus a blessing?

### REFLECT

What do you do when you are convicted by the Holy Spirit of a sin that you have committed? How do you feel that in spite of the fact that you deserve punishment for the sin you commit, God's love and grace is available for you?

# **PRAY**

Heavenly Father, I must admit that sometimes I play the blame game, blaming others for my own faults instead of taking personal responsibility and accountability for my own actions. Forgive me, Lord. Help me to live out my faith in accordance with Your teachings and commands. Thank You that Your love and grace have already been provided for me and enables me to live the great life You have planned for me for Your glory. I praise You in Jesus' name. Amen.