

## INTRODUCTION

In the temptation account, the serpent promised that the man and the woman would know “good and evil,” just as God knew “good and evil.” The man and the woman had believed that when they obtained the knowledge of “good and evil,” they would, on their own, enjoy the “good.” The possibility that they would know only the “evil” and not the “good” is not raised in the narrative prior to their eating the fruit. However, as soon as they ate the fruit, their eyes were opened, and it was not the “good” that they saw and enjoyed.

## DISCUSSION

Talk about how insidious sin is in our lives.

## EXPLANATION

Read James 1:12-15.

In what ways is death separation?

Why do people in the midst of sin not truly see their own sin?

In what ways is your own sin hidden from you?

## APPLICATION

How can you better recognize temptation and sin in your own life?

When was the last time you did something that was “sin” and thought it wasn’t that bad before you did it?” How so?

Is there anything you need to confess to your Gospel Community or friends so that they can help you battle your temptation?

## MISSION

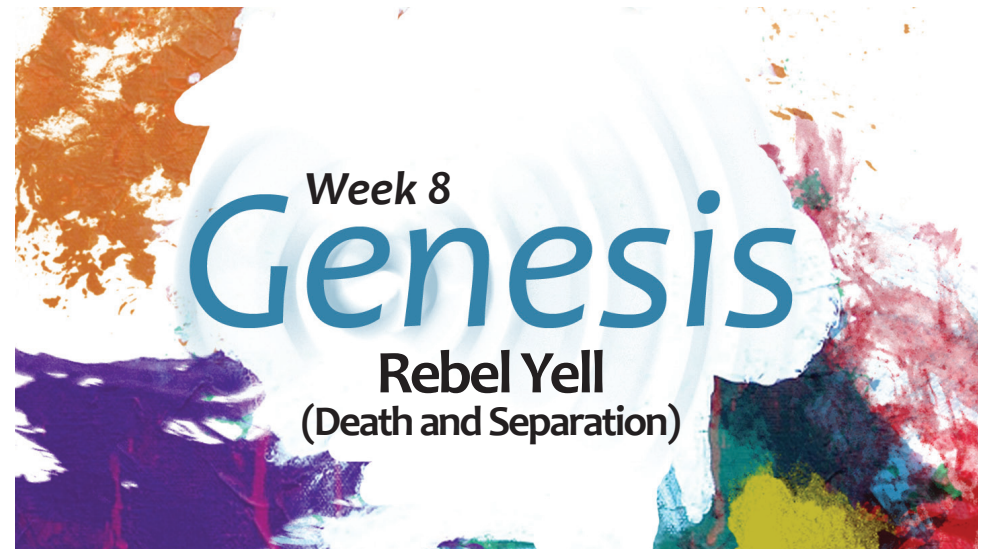
How can we, as people, stop encouraging sin and start discouraging it?

In what ways can we show that God knows the good, and we must trust Him in order for us to know it as well?

How can we better carry each other’s burdens in regard to temptation?

**Week 8**

FAMILY & GROUP DISCUSSION



Romans 6:23

1 Corinthians 15:26

Genesis 3:1-8

1 Corinthians 15:22

Romans 8:20-21

Matthew 27:46

Mark 15:34

2 Corinthians 5:21

NOTES & SCRIPTURE

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# Rebel Yell (Death and Separation)

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

We all have a great barrier to life called death. We will all be dead at some point, it is never pretty, and all the life we had hoped for will be lost and gone forever. Even when our souls go into eternity and live on forever, we can never get back the times in our lives that we have squandered away.

- Death is not the stopping of our hearts.
- Death is not our blood in our veins turning from red to blue.
- Death is not the synapses in our brain no longer firing impulses to our bodies.

## DEATH IS SEPARATION.

Families are separated from those they love; that is why loss is so profound and almost unspeakable. The deceased are separated from the ability to make any choices that can affect their eternal destiny, which is why the moment of “now” is so important. Death is separation from Life.

Centered initially on the Garden of Eden, the episodes that make up this part of Genesis recount how God’s ordered creation is thrown into chaos by the human couple’s disobedience. The subsequent stories of Cain and Abel and then Lamech (In chapter 4) show the world spiraling downward into violence, coming to a head at the flood. These events are very significant for understanding not only the whole of Genesis, but the entire Bible.

God generously permitted the man to eat from every tree of the garden except from **the tree of the knowledge of good and evil**.

The woman, as chapter 3 starts, already assumes that God truly knows “the good” even before she ate of the fruit. We know this by the description of the woman’s thoughts in the last moments before the Fall. In verse 6, when the woman saw that the tree “was good,” this is a Hebrew phrase that, up to this point, was reserved for God alone (“and He saw that it was good”). Now, instead of God, it is the woman who “saw that it was good.” It is at this point the author seems to raise the idea for everyone to look at, “what does becoming wise truly mean?”

The temptation is not presented as a general rebellion from God’s authority; it is portrayed as a quest for wisdom and “the good” apart from God’s provision. Having shown the temptation to be a quest for “wisdom” apart from God, the story comes to an abrupt conclusion in the act of the transgression: “*she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.*” That which the snake promised did, in fact, come about: the man and the woman became “like God” as soon as they ate of the fruit. The irony, however, lies in the fact that they were already “like God” because they had been created in His image.

In the temptation account, the serpent promised that the man and the woman would know “good and evil,” just as God knew “good and evil.” The man and the woman had believed that when they obtained the knowledge of “good and evil,” they would, on their own, enjoy the “good.” The possibility that they would know only the “evil” and not the “good” is not raised in the narrative prior to their eating the fruit. However, as soon as they ate the fruit, their eyes were opened, and it was not the “good” that they saw and enjoyed.

Their new knowledge was that of their own nakedness. Their knowledge of “good and evil” that was to make them “like God” resulted in the knowledge that they were no longer even like each other. They were ashamed of their nakedness, and they sewed leaves together to hide their differences from each other.

Like the Preacher of Ecclesiastes, Adam and Eve sought wisdom but found only vanity and toil. As the next segment of the narrative shows, not only did the man and his wife attempt to cover their shame from each other, in their making clothing from the trees of the garden, they also tried to hide themselves from God at the first sound of His coming.

They were separated from God, each other, and the only source of “the good”.

*Death is separation.*

## Have Questions about Genesis?

Ask us! Or find answers to previous questions throughout the entire series of Genesis.  
[www.ourelement.org/genesis-questions/](http://www.ourelement.org/genesis-questions/)

