

Genesis 3

Genesis 3:2,3....Knowing God's Word.

Know your Bible!

1 God actually made the Bible fairly easy, its full of stories. We remember stories easier than if it was just a plain text book. So we can know what happened to David, for instance, when he faced Goliath and learn the importance of faith from that story.

That's GCSE Level Bible knowledge for Christians.

2 You can learn some verses off by heart, and then the Holy Spirit can bring them to your mind when you are in need of them. Just as Jesus remembered the verses from Deuteronomy, so you might remember a relevant verse that meets your need or situation at a special time. It happens for Christians all the time, if they know their Bibles!

That's A Level Bible knowledge for Christians.

3 Then you can really dig in deep, knowing how different passages link together and getting a good overall understanding of scripture.

That's Degree Level Bible knowledge for Christians.

And you can go further too, and you can get to any level at any age, if you put in the effort.

Back to the Garden

As we are going to see next time, Eve got it wrong. She added in a bit God hadn't said, added a rule that God didn't put there and made Him seem very unreasonable.

There she was, living in paradise, and making life miserable for herself. The serpent saw this, twisted the knife and destroyed her happiness forever.

If only she had listened to and known what God had really said!

Sidelight

The Bible can be difficult, but there are quite a few things around that can help us to get to understand it better. Your Group Leader should be able to suggest one or two.

One good book to read to get you started in the Bible is John's Gospel and there are several helps for this book on the Lumin website, including suggestions of what to read each day and how to think about it, as well as a recorded talk on each section.

You'll find all this at John.lumin.org.uk (there's no www!)

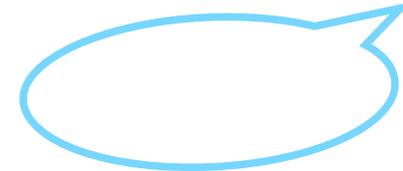
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Your Name: _____

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The woman said to the serpent: "We may eat fruit from the trees of 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.'"

Its as important to know what the Bible says for yourself as it is to know when someone else gets it wrong. In verse 1 we saw that the serpent/devil was misquoting it. Now we see the woman adds a bit on too. What did she add? See **Genesis 2:16,17** again.



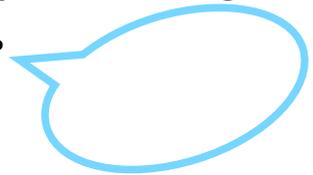
We're going to look at another occasion when the Devil was misquoting the Bible, when he tempted Jesus in the wilderness, and see how Jesus used scripture then. Read **Luke 4:1-13** and also find Deuteronomy chapters 6 and 8 as we will need some of those chapters in a few minutes.

Round One

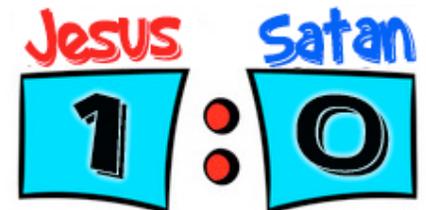
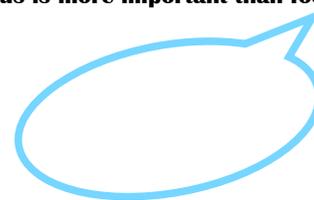
Jesus was hungry. Understatement of the year that. The average teenager can't fast for 40 minutes, let alone 40 days!

The devil is not stupid. **Genesis 3:1** remember describes him as more 'crafty' (NIV) or 'clever' (Youth Bible) than any other creature God had made. So he always attacks at our weak spots. Temptation no.1 for Jesus then, was, to create food out of stones. He knew Jesus had the power to do that. Jesus knew it would be wrong, because He was still fasting and He wasn't around to use His power for His own good, but other peoples.

Jesus quotes **Deuteronomy 8:3**, which says what?



He didn't need to quote it all, but what does this verse tell us is more important than food?



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Round Two

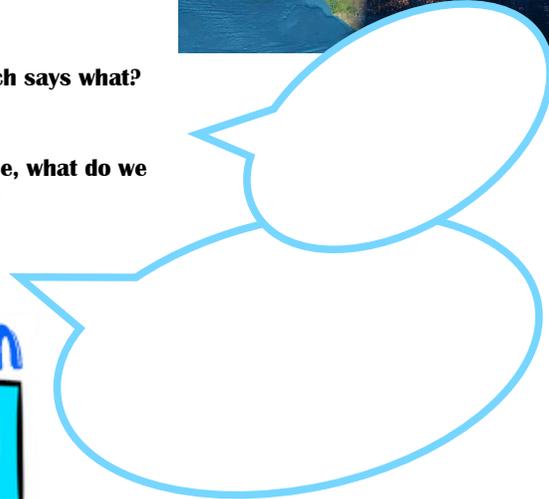
Humans are always tempted by power. We like to be in charge, not to have to do what others say. Better still, to be able to tell others where to get off. It's easy to be seduced by power, so the devil tries it on Jesus. Notice that Jesus doesn't deny that Satan was in charge of the earth. He didn't say "they're not yours to give".

After all, He came to rescue the world from Satan's power and win it back for God. And here was the devil offering to give it to Him anyway. Mission accomplished?.....But there was a catch.

What was the catch?

Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 6:13 which says what?

Read the other verses around this one, what do we learn about worshipping other Gods?



Round Three

"Well, ok," says the Devil. "But you know you're not going to get much support, don't you! You'll have to do something spectacular to make angels appear and rescue you. Then people will believe in you."

What's more, he even quotes some scripture himself. The devil loves to do that (as he did with Eve in Genesis 1:1). He



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quotes Psalm 91:11,12.

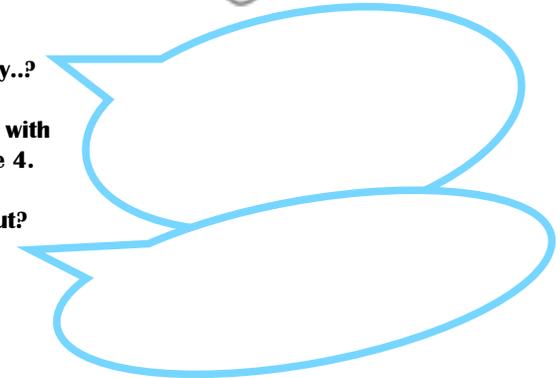
What does that actually say..?

Compare your last answer with what the devil says in Luke 4.

It's almost the same!

But what had he missed out?

(Look back a few verses.)



Jesus goes back to Deuteronomy 6:16 for His reply, bops the devil on the nose for the final knockout, and wins.



The Lessons for us

If you're really following God and being spiritual, you might have made round one. You would probably have spotted the catch about worshipping the devil in round two.

But round three will floor you, if you don't know the Bible well! The devil is very clever at misquoting it or taking it completely out of context.

"You mustn't have blood transfusions" say the Jehovah's Witnesses, because the Bible says so.

There isn't a vein of truth in it, they are taking one verse way out of context and paying with their lives.

"It's ok to sin, because if you say sorry God will forgive you, the Bible says so". No, the Bible says we must repent, decide not to sin, follow God and then, if we are aiming to please Him and we sin, He will forgive us. But if we are deliberately going on sinning and not trying to please God, we aren't meeting His conditions!