

Genesis 3

Your Name: _____

Genesis 3:11-13....Questions and Answers.

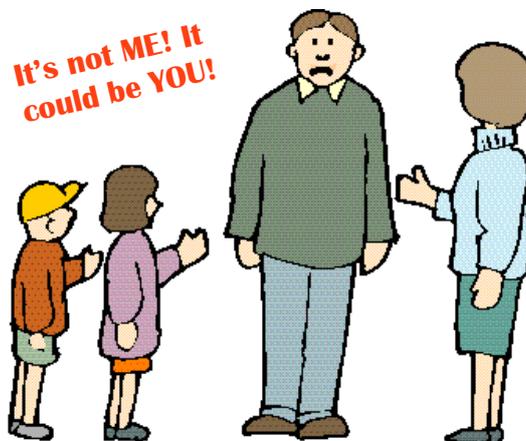
And (God) said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me - she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate".

If you can't hide...blame someone!

Isn't that just what we always do? When we are finally found out, we point the finger at someone else!

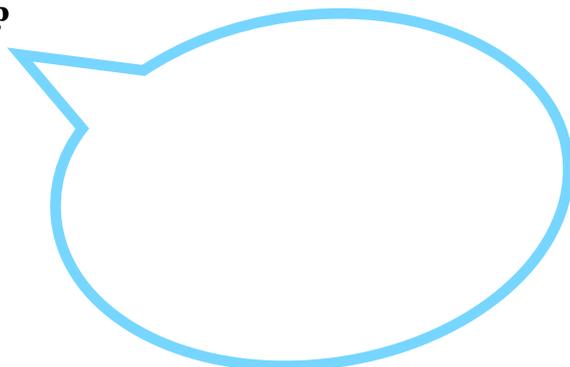
It wasn't me, I wasn't talking in class, she was talking to me!

I wasn't speeding, I was just keeping up with the car in front!



That's exactly what Adam and Eve did. Adam blamed Eve (and God too!) and Eve blamed the serpent.

Think back over the last week. Have there been times you have blamed someone else in order to avoid trouble for yourself? What does it feel like when someone blames you in this way?

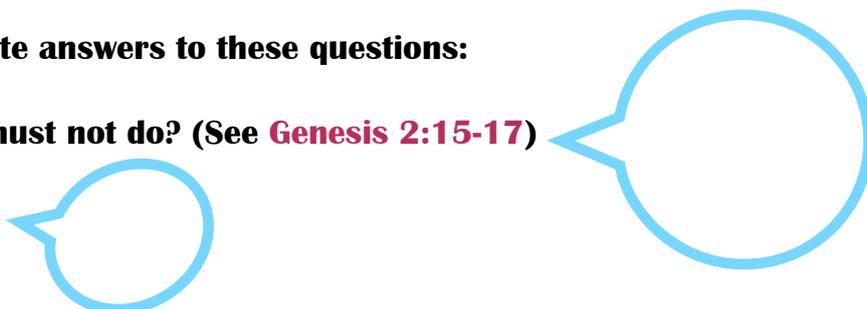


But wasn't Adam right to point the finger? After all, Eve did give it to him.....

To answer that question, write answers to these questions:

1/ What had God said they must not do? (See **Genesis 2:15-17**)

2/ Who did God say this to?



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3/ Do you have any doubt that Adam knew it was wrong?

4/ Who was responsible for Adam's action?

5/ Did he have any right to blame Eve?

You could answer the same set of questions for Eve too. In fact, if anything, she was less guilty, because she was told 'the rules' by Adam, not by God directly.

Think.....

Do we have any excuse when we sin?

Has God made the 'rules' clear to us or not?

Have you ever tempted someone else to do wrong, to sin?

Answering the wrong questions.....

Have you ever listened to a tv or radio interview where the person being asked questions never seems to answer them? They always have some long prepared statement that goes round in circles and avoids the question they were actually asked.

Adam and Eve are a bit like that here.

What does God ask them?

They don't answer that question do they, at least not immediately. They get round to it eventually, but start off with something they weren't asked....."why?"

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Why? Why? Why?

We're always asking that aren't we. We always want to know. Why does God allow suffering? Why did my relative die then? Why did that happen to me? And God never seems to answer!

In fact, I'm fairly sure He never does. "Why?" isn't on His agenda. He doesn't answer it, but **He doesn't ask it either.**

When do you forgive someone, if you ever do?

Sidelight

A friend or someone who you spend time with often does something that really annoys you or hurts you.

Will you ever forgive them?

Do you wait till they say sorry before you even think about forgiving them?

Do you forgive them as soon as you calm down a bit, even if they don't say sorry?

God does the last one (not that He needs to calm down!). In fact, even before you sin He has already forgiven you, because He forgave you at Calvary on the Cross 2,000 years ago.

He wants us to forgive others in the same way, before they say sorry. "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us".

Don't wait for the apology, God doesn't wait for yours! That's not to say it's not needed, you can't mend the relationship until both people want to. You need to forgive, they need to admit they've done wrong (just as we need to confess to God). But get your forgiveness sorted on the same day as the problem, then you can move on.

He didn't ask Adam and Eve why they sinned; He asked them what they'd done. He didn't want an explanation that tried to cover up their guilt, He wanted an honest answer about what they'd done wrong, so that He could help them to repent.

He doesn't ask you and me why we sin, He asks us what we've done. He doesn't want an explanation that tries to cover up our guilt, He wants an honest answer about what we've done wrong, so that He can help us to repent.

What we can bring to God.....

The only thing you and I have to bring as an offering to God, that He didn't give us in the first place, is our sin.

He doesn't want us to hide it from Him. He doesn't want us to make excuses for it. He wants us to bring it out into the open and to tell Him what we have done wrong, so that he can help us to put it right.

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Make a list below of some of the things that you need to put right with God today. No excuses, no reasons, just the honest truth.

God I am a sinner. I am guilty, this is what I have done:

Please forgive me, signed_____Date_____



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