



THE MAN HAS NOW BECOME LIKE ONE OF US

THE UNDOING OF FAMILY

INTRODUCTION

It's the saddest story in history—how Adam and Eve's happy marriage self-destructed after disobeying God, thereby threatening every family that followed. But it's important to review the events in the Garden of Eden, because the story tells us exactly what we're up against when we try to succeed at building a family.

Watch the DVD
and record your
thoughts here.

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Let's turn to the ultimate authority, the Bible, for our starting point. Read individually or as a group:

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.' " But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." . . . Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil."

—Genesis 3:1-13, 22

You might also want to read:

Romans 5:12-15; 1 Corinthians 15:22, 45-49.

Use the blank lines below the discussion questions to record your initial thoughts, questions, and whatever God might be saying to you through the video, so you can review and reflect on all of this later.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Why do you think the serpent first approached just one person, Eve, rather than the couple? How did this evil tactic help break up their relationship?

2. In what ways did Adam and Eve die when they ate the forbidden fruit?

3. Satan is enraged not just with God, but also with marriage and family, since they are a representation of God. How did Adam and Eve's sin affect their marriage? How has it affected every marriage since? Do you have an anecdote to share from your own marriage?

4. Just as the Fall attacked the family, so also salvation came through a family. How does Jesus's birth into a family, and the fact that He remained in a family to the end of His earthly life, help you relate to Him? Do you see Him as fully human, or do you tend to think mostly of His divinity? Why?

5. How does God use family to help bring good out of the Fall?

I CAN TAKE
TOMORROW

Think of and write down at least one practical thing you can do tomorrow as a result of today's session.

WRAP-UP

By one man, Adam, came sin and death. By another man, Jesus, came redemption and life. Every day, we experience both of those realities in our marriage and family life. But we can be victorious if we at least stay together as a family. Sadly, many marriages don't hold together long enough to work through the problems. We'll look at that in our next session.