

# Study Guide: "An Outline of Temptation" - Genesis 3

## Sermon Summary

This sermon explores the fall of humanity in Genesis 3, examining how Adam and Eve's desire to "be like God"—deciding for themselves what is right and wrong—led to separation from God's presence. Despite their rebellion, God graciously provided covering for their sin and promised ultimate victory over the serpent through Christ.

---

## Key Takeaways

1. **The nature of sin is wanting independence from God** - not just disobedience, but declaring we can decide right and wrong for ourselves
  2. **Death means separation from God's presence**, not just physical death
  3. **We inherit the tendency to "be like God"** - making our own rules and going our own way
  4. **God graciously pursues us** despite our rebellion, providing the sacrifice we cannot provide for ourselves
  5. **Victory comes through Christ**, who crushes the serpent's head and reconciles us to God
- 

## Discussion Questions

### Understanding the Text

1. **The serpent questioned God's word, and Eve added to it.** What does this tell us about how temptation works? How do we see similar patterns in our own lives?
2. **The sermon states that Adam and Eve "died" when they ate the fruit, even though they didn't physically die immediately.** What does it mean to be "alive" or "dead" in biblical terms? How does this change how we understand spiritual life?
3. **Read Genesis 3:21 together.** Why is it significant that God made garments of skin for Adam and Eve? What does this foreshadow?

## Personal Reflection

4. **The sermon asks: "How often do we make decisions without asking for God's wisdom to guide us?"** Share an example of when you've relied on your own understanding versus seeking God's counsel. What was the difference in outcome or peace?
5. **"Being like God means we want to decide what is right and what is wrong."** In what areas of life are you most tempted to be the judge of right and wrong rather than trusting God's standards?
6. **The pastor mentioned we often give thanks before meals "out of habit."** What are some of God's blessings you've taken for granted? How can you cultivate genuine gratitude?

## Going Deeper

7. **The sermon referenced Romans 16:19-20 about being "innocent as to what is evil."** What's the difference between knowing about evil and being innocent of it? How do we balance awareness with purity?
8. **"Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins."** How does understanding the sacrificial system help you appreciate Christ's sacrifice more deeply?
9. **The Nazi example and crucifixion example show people doing evil while thinking they were doing good.** How do we guard against self-deception? What role does community and Scripture play in keeping us accountable?

## Application

10. **James 4:7 says, "Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."** What does practical submission to God look like in your daily life this week?
  11. **The sermon mentions we're clothed "in the full armor of God" (Ephesians 6).** Which piece of armor do you most need to focus on right now? Why?
-

# Practical Applications

## This Week's Challenge

Choose one area where you've been "going it alone" without God and intentionally submit it to Him:

- **Decision-making:** Before making any significant decision this week, pause and pray for God's wisdom
- **Ethics:** Identify one area where you've been using your own standard rather than God's word, and realign with Scripture
- **Gratitude:** Each morning this week, thank God for three specific provisions before getting out of bed
- **Dependence:** When facing a challenge, resist the urge to say "I got this" and instead pray "Lord, I need you"

## Activity Option

### Scripture Meditation Exercise:

- Read Genesis 3:8-9: "They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden... But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, 'Where are you?'"
  - Spend 3-5 minutes in silence reflecting: Where are YOU hiding from God right now?
  - Pray for forgiveness and thank God for his provision for you in Christ.
- 

## Memory Verse

**James 4:7** - "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

---

## Prayer Focus

### Pray for:

- Humility to recognize areas where we're trying to "be like God"
- Wisdom to discern right from wrong according to God's word, not our preferences
- Gratitude for God's gracious provision and pursuit of us
- Strength to resist temptation and stand firm on Christ, our foundation
- The Lynch family as they prepare to transition to Hanford

**Remember:** The benediction from the service - "The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord be gracious to you and make his face shine upon you. Go in peace to love and to serve our Lord."