

Sermon Series: God's Story, Your Story

Week 3- Fall

Speaker: Danny de Armas

Passage: Genesis 3:8-10, 12, 16

Groups Guide: 9/28/2025

Leader's Corner: Sermon Series Overview

Have you ever asked yourself:

- *Where did I come from?*
- *What is my purpose?*
- *How do I discover my God-given identity?*
- *Why is there suffering in the world?*
- *Where will I spend eternity—and what will that be like?*

In this study, we'll journey through God's story (Creation, the Fall, Redemption, and Restoration) uncovering how His truth speaks into life's biggest questions. These aren't just questions for believers; they're questions your friends, coworkers, and neighbors are asking every day. Let's lean in together as a church family to engage our culture with the hope of the gospel and gain a fresh perspective on God's plan and our part in it.

Main Idea: *"Few people deny that something has gone wrong in the world. This week, we will focus on sin and its effects. We'll also explore how we understand the question of pain and suffering in our lives and in the world."*

BELONG:

Leader's Guide: Choose one or both icebreaker questions to start your group. Question 1 works well for larger groups or groups with new members, it's lighthearted and easy to answer. Question 2 is best for smaller, more familiar groups who are ready for deeper discussion.

1. **What's the most ridiculous 'rule' you broke as a kid, and did you think you were being sneaky at the time? Did you get caught? If so, what was your punishment?**
2. **Let's start with a big question people sometimes ask about God: 'How could a loving God allow bad things to happen?' If someone asked you that, how might you respond?**

Leader Note: This question is probably the most asked and hardest question for people to wrestle with. As a leader, it is okay to affirm the weight of the question and encourage honesty. Acknowledge the brokenness in the world, remind people of God's love in the midst of suffering and point them towards hope. This will set up meaning discussion and prepare the group to read Genesis 3.

BELIEVE:

Leader's Note: For better preparation during your group discussion, please take time to read the entire chapter of Genesis 3.

Read Genesis 3:8-10, 12, 16

1. **If God is all-knowing, why do you think He still asked Adam, 'Where are you?' after the first sin? What does His question reveal about His mercy and grace?**

Leader's Note: Unlike humans, God never asks a question He doesn't already know the answer to. By asking "Where are you", He calls Adam and Eve out of hiding and invites them to step into honesty and confession. God's gentle question shows His character: slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love (Exodus 34:6). God shows that He pursues us, even when we're hiding

2. Why do we often try to hide our sins from God or others? How can this affect our relationships (with God, with others, with ourselves, and with creation)?

Leader's note: As you discuss this question, highlight the effects of the first sin. Guilt, shame, and fear are the natural responses to sin (Gen. 3:7-10). Hiding often creates distance, not only from God, but from others, ourselves, and even creation. That's why cultivating an honest relationship with God and trusted community is so important.

3. Eve also blames the serpent in verse 3:13. Where do you see this tendency in our world today, or even in yourself? How does our response to sin mirror Adam and Eve's?

BECOME:

1.) How does understanding the Fall shape the way we trust God, rely on His grace, and live out our faith in daily life?

2.) Knowing the root of pain and suffering based on Genesis 3, how might we respond differently when we face similar challenges today?

Leader's Note: "God enters the suffering with us, when he entered humanity as an infant and endured human conditions of the curse, to the point of death on the cross, prior to his victorious resurrection."

CHALLENGE:

*We are disciples of Jesus becoming **RELATIONAL INFLUENCERS**. This means we share and live out the gospel with everyone, everywhere, every day.*

This week, take time to reflect on areas in your life where you tend to hide, blame, or struggle with sin, just as Adam and Eve did.

Ask God to show you His justice, grace, and mercy in those moments. Then, take one concrete step to respond differently: confess a wrong, seek reconciliation, serve someone, or rely more fully on His guidance.

Share your experience with someone you trust to encourage growth and accountability. Sharing your struggles may help them move closer to God and equip them to be open with others. How are you helping others move closer to God and equipping them to help others do the same?

DIVE DEEPER:

This section is designed for leaders or anyone eager to go deeper beyond the small group conversation. Explore the resources below to keep growing!

Bible Project:

- Genesis 3 - <https://bibleproject.com/videos/genesis-12-50/>
- The Book of Genesis Study Guide - <https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-genesis/>

Breakpoint Colson Center

- <https://breakpoint.org/breakpoint-podcasts/>

Blue Letter Bible

- www.Blueletterbible.org/commentaries