

The Call of God
The Response
of the Faithful

September 21, 2008
Genesis 2:15-25, 3:1-24
The Call to the Family Business

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" (Gen. 3:8-9)

"Sent to Follow"

Katie Painter, an 8th grader, shared about going to San Francisco on the Urban Plunge Mission. Taking a risk and talking to homeless people taught her how to take risks for the sake of relationships at school. She has learned that "relationships aren't just for the benefit of ourselves but for the benefit of others."

Walter Brueggemann, OT scholar and Presbyterian pastor, indicates there is a transition in this passage where man goes from *talking to God* to *talking about God* – not a positive change.

To Get Started . . .

Share one thing from the sermon that really spoke to you.

Read Genesis 2:15-25 and 3:1-24 (included on the following pages)

What do you learn about God from these verses? In what ways do you see him being vulnerable for the sake of relationship?

Mark the places where God gives instructions to Adam or Eve.

What does God do here to meet the needs of humans?

What do you learn about humanity from these verses?

What patterns do you see in Adam and Eve's behavior that are also tendencies for you?

Apply It

In what ways have you experienced God not quitting on you even though you disobeyed him?

When have you heard God asking, "Where are you?" How did you respond?

Describe a time in your life when you tried to hide from God.

Where are you being called to risk being in relationship in a way that requires you to sacrifice some of who you are and be vulnerable?

What keeps you from taking the risk to be vulnerable? What specifically are you afraid of?

What glimpses of walking in the garden with God have you had (metaphorically)?

Do you feel a desire to walk in the garden with God? What would this look like?

Do you find it easier to talk to God or about Him? Why?

Pray Together!

It is often easier for groups to talk about God rather than to him. Spend more time than usually today as a group talking to God instead of just about him.

Live It

- Make a commitment to talk to God each day.
- Watch for opportunities where you can choose to be vulnerable for the sake of a relationship. Respond by taking a risk where you are

Genesis 2:15-3:24 (New International Version)

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

19 Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

23 The man said,
"This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called 'woman,'
for she was taken out of man."

24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

25 The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Genesis 3 - The Fall of Man

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 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.' "

4 "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

11 And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

14 So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,

"Cursed are you above all the livestock

and all the wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly

and you will eat dust

all the days of your life.

15 And I will put enmity

between you and the woman,

and between your offspring and hers;

he will crush your head,

and you will strike his heel."

16 To the woman he said,

"I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing;

with pain you will give birth to children.

Your desire will be for your husband,

and he will rule over you."

17 To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,'

"Cursed is the ground because of you;

through painful toil you will eat of it

all the days of your life.

18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you,

and you will eat the plants of the field.

19 By the sweat of your brow

you will eat your food

until you return to the ground,

since from it you were taken;

for dust you are

and to dust you will return."

20 Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

21 The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. 22 And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." 23 So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. 24 After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.