



*Week 7*

**Growth Group Opener:**

**What is the worst piece of advice you've ever been given?**

***Read Genesis 3:1-7; James 1:13-15***

What do we learn about the serpent in v1?

How does his approach set the tone for the conversation that follows?

Look closely at the serpent's question in v1. Compare it with God's words in 2:16-17.

What is subtle about the way the serpent reframes God's command?

Why do you think he set up the conversation this way?

Look at v2-3 where the woman relays God's instructions. Compare again to 2:16-17.

What can we learn about the importance of knowing what God has actually said?

What progression do you see from the serpent in v.1-5? Where do you see this same pattern today?

What things in this world tend to look good and promise fulfillment, but ultimately pull you away from God?

The man was with the woman in v6, but said nothing. What is the danger of passivity or silence when we witness something wrong?

What changed immediately in v7? What was the first feeling and the first action? Why do you think those things were the very first consequences of sin?

In the progression in James 1, where is a disciple best positioned to intervene? What tools has God given his children to be able to stand firm in that moment?

Is there an area of your life where someone else, or perhaps even your own thoughts, have subtly distorted who God is or what he has said?

What do we learn about God in these passages?

Is there anything you feel the Holy Spirit inviting you to look at more closely?

**Prayer:**

Father, you are so good and so kind. Thank you for giving us the gift of choice. You don't force us to choose you, but you choose us, even in our sin. Help us to choose your way over the things that entice us, and give us discernment to know what is truly of you. We repent of all the times we have chosen our own way. Thank you for sending Jesus to make a way back to you. In the name of Jesus, amen.