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The First Woman A Far-Reaching Choice

Genesis 3:1-13

The Tempter, described as a crafty serpent, never whispers to us, "Come, I'll teach you to sin." If he tempted us in this way, we would recognize his strategy immediately and declare ourselves. Instead, he comes in disguise, sometimes piously quoting Scripture, carrying on discussions about God or whatever fits his purpose.

GROUP DISCUSSION. How have you experienced the Tempter using your fear of missing out on the good stuff of life to trick you into listening to his lies?

PERSONAL REFLECTION. If someone wanted to entice you to do wrong, what kind of appeal would prove to be the best strategy?

The Tempter knew what the issues were when he approached the first woman. He exploited her not by actions but by his words. He appealed to her desire for the best in life and encouraged her to choose against her understanding of truth. The tragic consequences reveal that no-fault choices are illusions both for Eve and for us. Read *Genesis 3:1-13*.

1. What do you imagine the quality of life was like in the garden

where the first woman lived? Refer briefly to Genesis 2:8-23 to find out the details of “her world.”

2. The serpent approaches the woman with a discussion about God. What doubts does he raise in her mind regarding God’s character (vv. 4-5)?

3. Compare the woman’s answer to the serpent’s question (vv. 1-3) with God’s original instruction in 2:17. Why do you think she amplified the instruction?

Have you ever done the same thing? Explain.

4. After the serpent departs, what does the woman see when she examines the forbidden tree (v. 6)?

5. What was wrong with her focus?

6. Do you think the woman knew she was doing wrong when she took the fruit? Why or why not?

7. How does your focus affect your awareness of whether you are yielding to temptation?

8. What were the immediate consequences of her action (vv. 7-13)?

9. Everything in Eden changed as the result of the woman’s choice. Yet what evidence of God’s grace do you see (vv. 8-13)?

10. It was only one tree and one little piece of fruit. What does Eve’s experience teach us about the far-reaching consequences of our choices?

11. What strategies help you to thwart the Tempter?

Ask God to sharpen your awareness of his truth and of the Tempter’s strategies.

Now or Later

As a personal exercise, recall the hurtful times when the Tempter won in your life (lies, wrong actions, wrong words, wrong attitudes) and what strategy he used. Notice how he preyed on your insecurities, and resolve to resist his wiles.