



LOVING JESUS, LOVING PEOPLE, PLOWING A COUNTER-CULTURE

TEXT: Genesis 3:6–13

MAIN IDEA: Sin has serious consequences, but God provides protection and a promise to overcome it.

LEADERS:

- On Saturday, April 1, we will be hosting our Easter Eggstravaganza at our Ringwood Campus! This is a great event for kids 10 and under, with plenty of fun and crazy stuff, and is also an outreach opportunity for your friends and family. So cast those nets! For overflow parking, we'll be shuttling people from the nearby Community Presbyterian Church at 145 Carletondale Road in Ringwood.
- We're once again mugging our neighbors. For those unfamiliar with this practice, it means that you grab a free Emergence mug on Sunday, March 12, stuff it with all kinds of goodies, and give it to a friend or neighbor as an invitation for them to come out to celebrate Easter with us.
- Our Good Friday reflection and communion services will be held at our Totowa campus on Friday, April 7, at 4:30 pm, 6:00 pm, and 7:30 pm.
- Our Easter services will be on Sunday, April 9, at 8:00 am, 9:15 am, 10:30 am, and 11:45 am at our Totowa campus, and at 9:00 am and 10:30 am at our Ringwood campus. Come celebrate our risen King.

GETTING STARTED:

- Watch this week's Community Extras Video.
 - **Icebreaker:** Is there anything special you're doing for Lent?
 - **Opener:** What did you take away from the sermon this week?
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RUPTURED RELATIONSHIPS

Read: Genesis 3:6–13.



What does this passage teach us about sin's effects on our lives?

Leaders: Your people might come up with a variety of answers. The two that were highlighted in the sermon are hiding and blame. Note how both of these are directed at both one another and God himself.



What are some ways that we hide from one another because of our sin?



What are some ways that we try to hide from God because of our sin?

☺ In the Ringwood sermon, Ryan Franey made the interesting observation that blame itself is a form of hiding, because when we blame we are trying to hide the truth of our own shortcomings. Can you give some examples of how you have found this to be true in your life?



☺ Is there someone you are blaming for your sin now, and how can taking ownership of it bring you closer to freedom in Christ?

SIN'S CORRUPTION OF GOD'S GOOD DESIGN

Read Genesis 3:16–19.

Leaders: As mentioned in both the Totowa and Ringwood sermons, there is a translation issue in the way the English Standard Version renders the first part of verse 16: “Your desire shall be contrary to your husband.” This implies a negative connotation to what the wife is doing, in addition to the husband’s “ruling over” the wife in the second part of the verse. However, the Hebrew is much more neutral and leaves room open for interpretation: “Your desire shall be for (lit. “to”) your husband.” Note: “Contrary to” is a revision that was made in the 2016 version of this translation, and is not reflected in earlier printings of the ESV. I will try to provide some clarity on this issue in this week’s podcast.

Leaders: We’re purposely holding off on verse 15 until the end of the study.

🧠 When God pronounces the consequences of sin in verses 16–19, obviously these are not *all* of sin’s consequences. Why do you think these ones are singled out: For the woman, childbearing and marriage; for the man, working the ground?

☺ 🧠 What are some major causes of disharmony in marital relationships?

☺ 🧠 How do the consequences of Adam’s sin in verses 17–19 manifest themselves in your life?

Leaders: Some of the more obvious answers might include things like terrible bosses, co-workers, failed ideas, etc. Encourage your group to dig deeper into the ways work in our fallen world impact us internally, especially with unhealthy ideas about work (e.g., workaholism, resentment towards work, laziness, greed, corruption, exploiting and using others).

☺ 🧠 How do the consequences of Adam’s sin in verses 17–19 manifest themselves in your life?

GOD’S GOODNESS TO SINNERS

Read Genesis 3:20–24.

☺ The “nakedness,” which implied innocence and intimacy in chapter 2 has now become a symbol of their shame—this is what they tried to hide. Here, God provides coverings for them to cover their shame. How does God cover our shame?

🧠 What is the reason given in the text for their expulsion from the Garden of Eden? How is this a mercy?

☺ When has God’s discipline in your life been an act of mercy?



Now, let's back up a little bit so we can end on a high note.

Read Genesis 3:14–15.

Leaders: Despite popular opinion, nothing in verse 14 says that the serpent originally had legs; there is no biblical reason to think this. Rather, the serpent's fate is that he is cursed, and his crawling on his belly and his eating of dust are indications of his humility, despite his initial "craftiness" (see Micah 7:17; Psalm 72:9; Isaiah 49:23).

 Many people wonder about the identity of the serpent. Some suggest this is Satan himself, others that it is merely a mysterious talking snake that we never hear from again. Can you see something in verse 15 that might give us part of the answer to this question?

 Genesis 3:15 is the first glimmer of the gospel in the Bible. As Christians, we know that God eventually fulfills this promise in Christ. But if you were reading this without knowing that, how would you summarize the hope that is provided in this verse? In other words, what does hope look like thus far in the story of Scripture?

 How does the promise of Genesis 3:15 help us in our struggle with sin?

PRAYER TIME

Praise God for not leaving us dead in our sin, to suffer the consequences of our rebellion without hope.

Pray that God would show you what it means to have your sin and shame covered by the blood of Jesus.

Pray that God would help you to deal with the consequences of sin that you still feel in your life.