

Preparation for Sessions 2 and 3

Read: Genesis 1 – 3

Consider the following questions:

1. Why do we find two accounts of the creation in the first two chapters of the book of Genesis?
2. What do you think it meant when God said “Let us..” in Genesis 1:26? Does this relate to God creating man as male and female in His own image in 1:27?
3. Is the image of God in humankind lost after the Fall?
4. How would you describe man’s initial response to the creation of woman? (Genesis 2:23 – 25)?
5. Is man established as a spiritual leader in the second chapter of Genesis? If so, what is the evidence?
6. Does the role of woman as “helper” imply a subordinate role for woman?
7. Is there significance in the fact that the man is named by God and the woman is named by man?
8. How would you interpret the statement “The man and his wife were both naked and they felt no shame.”? Does this statement inform us regarding gender roles?
9. Why does the serpent initially approach the woman instead of the man?
10. Was the man present when the serpent speaks to the woman?
11. How did woman learn of the prohibition from eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?
12. Was the man’s sin different than the woman’s sin? If so, in what way?
13. What is the significance of man and woman dressing themselves after “the eyes of both of them were opened”? Did they realize the differences in gender more clearly after the Fall?
14. What is the significance of the future role of the serpent as one who strikes at the heel of humankind and whose head is crushed? How will the serpent’s head be crushed?
15. Does Genesis 3:14, 15 suggest who will have the upper hand between the serpent and the woman?

16. In what way is the woman's desire for her husband and his rule over her a curse? Or is it?
17. Does Genesis 3:19 imply that man must be the breadwinner of the family?
18. More liberal commentators suggest that Genesis 3:20 was added as an afterthought and does not fit into this narrative? Does this verse fit? If so, how?