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WARM UP

When you were a kid, was there a food that you were told to eat, but you didn't like eating it?

WORD

Read [Genesis 3:1-10](#)

The first sin action was disobeying God by eating the fruit God told Adam and Eve not to eat - fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. At the root of that sin action was the deeper issue of idolatry. Just like Adam and Eve, we have been created to worship God in relationship with Him.

NOTES

1 Did God Actually Say

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'"

[Genesis 3:1](#) (ESV)

The first level of testing we might face is the knowledge of what God says to us, whether it is about who He is, what He does, or who we are. The key to passing this test is to know what God actually said by understanding His word *and* obeying what He says. It's one thing to have it memorised, but another to have God's words become our way of life. This is the difference in passing or failing the test.

- Think about what you know about who God says He is. Do you know that from the Bible? Or from what you've learnt by hearing it from other people?
- Does God and His words from the Bible dictate the way you live? Why or why not?

2 Reasoning With God

⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

[Genesis 3:6](#) (ESV)

The second level of testing we'll encounter is when our reasoning and God's Word come into misalignment. Talking to God in prayer is nonsensical if you don't believe He exists. Believing what He says about the Church, His crucifixion and resurrection, and living generously make absolutely no sense when our lives are centred on human logic.

Sometimes we can reason our way right into sin or remain silent when it's time to speak against the sin we see as a logical conclusion. Most of the time when we sin, it is because our desire for it is stronger than our desire to worship God.

- Have you ever known that something was not right, but you were tempted to do it anyway? What were the reasons the temptation was so strong for you?

3 Afraid, Naked, Hidden

⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. ⁸Then 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. ⁹But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

[Genesis 3:7-11](#) (ESV)

God knows when we fail, but it is our response that determines whether we move towards or away from Him. This is called repentance, which is to turn away from sin and to turn towards God. Do we rely on what God did for us, which was sending His Son, Jesus, to cover us by laying His life down for us at the cross? Or do we rely on our own ability to cover ourselves with our own personal "fig leaves"?

- Have you chosen to let the finished work of Jesus at the cross cover your sin? Or are you still trying to be better in the strength of your own will? Or do you define yourself by your own "fig leaves"?
- Do you fully trust God in all areas of your life? Why or why not?

PRAYER

- Pray for the grace to trust God and to overcome temptation.
- Pray for opportunities to be a consistent witness of God's love and grace.
- Pray for one another - that God would strengthen us to pass every test and bring Him the honour He deserves in our lives.