

The End of the World As We Know It *[Genesis 1-11]*

Genesis 3:1-26 (preached on May 31, 2009)

Note to Discussion Leaders: Please remember to start by reading the Bible passage as a group. While this is a “sermon discussion” guide, it’s vital that our reflections and applications are grounded in scripture. In a similar vein, do your best to help group members to link their discussion points to the scripture text. Don’t skip over all the questions that invite the group to observe and interpret specific verses in the passage.

READ Genesis 3:1-26 (NT reading: Romans 5:12-21)

REFLECT

1. **Warm-up.** Today’s study looks into the Bible’s explanation for why things are not the way they’re supposed to be. Name a recent time (large or small) when you experienced frustration, grief, or conflict, and you found yourself longing for an ideal world—longing for things to be the way they’re supposed to be.
2. In your own words, explain why Adam and Eve’s failure was not simply a matter of breaking a petty rule (vv. 1-7). What was the deeper significance of what they had done (compare 1:29-30; 2:9, 16-17)? How can this help you understand the nature of “sin” in your own life?
3. Consider this statement: *All sin issues are ultimately trust issues with God.* Take the following examples (or add others of your own) and explain how a distrust of God lies underneath each: (a) lying to your boss, (b) feeling the need to control every detail of life, (c) lusting after another’s body or relationship.
4. Consider that Adam and Eve were offered every tree in the Garden (2:16) and reflect on the following statement: *The insanity of temptation is that you want what you already have.* Is this true in your life? How can remembering the abundance of God’s provision and blessing help you overcome various temptations in your life (see Psalm 103:1-5; Ephesians 1:3)?

