

Week 3

The Fall

Genesis 2:4–3:24

Women have often wondered (*with irritation, I admit*) how in the world their husband can sit watching a television show on the couch, blissfully and painfully unaware of what is going on around him. Really!?! Seriously!?!?

Women have also wondered how they can have conversations with their husband – that they thought were clear and concise – only to have him completely forget and strongly deny that had, just a few days later.

When the sink is full of dishes, or the grass needs cutting, or the kids are fighting, or the bathroom renovation is 98% complete and only needs 1 piece of trim installed to be DONE (Which would only take 5 minutes mind you to fix) – **how can this man who they love simply tunes out and seem to seriously not realize that these ‘distractions’ even exist?**

Apparently, men’s brains are divided into little individual boxes. There is a box for the car, a box for the wife, a box for work, a box for eating, a box for watching television, a box for money, a box for yard work and most impressively, now get this – a

NOTHING BOX that they reserve for those times when they simply want to tune out the world and not think.

While women entire waking moments are an amazingly erratic run-on sentence full of thoughts, worries, to-do's, ideas, discussions, problems, concerns, and things to remember that rarely string together to make any sort of sense, which is probably why they always feel stressed and panicked – We husbands have a beautiful, undisturbed, happy **NOTHING box** that we can go to anytime he wants to.

When we are in our **NOTHING BOX** we seriously think, feel and DO NOTHING.

When a man is in his **NOTHING box**, he isn't worried about the bills, thinking about sex, worried about the things that he should be doing. He isn't revisiting a conversation he had with his daughter worried that he said the wrong thing, doesn't hear the constant beep beep beep of the dryer shouting "Empty ME" and certainly has no idea what the kids are fighting over in the other room.

The NOTHING BOX.

Could you imagine, thinking NOTHING. Women brain never turns off. Before they are done with one thing, they are already 1000 thoughts into the next 10 things they need or want to do. While they are doing one thing, they are often thinking about another. They don't just sweep.... They think while they are sweeping. They don't just cook, they bond and communicate with the kids while they am cooking

Men however are wired differently.

And according to experts, their boxes – categorized in their head – never really touch. They are in only one box at a time. And when the boxes in their head become overwhelming, they simply use their male remote control to change channels into the nothing box.

***Unfortunately, there is no way for you simple women to
KNOW when a man in his nothing box.***

And this perhaps explains why there are so many misunderstandings and miscommunications between men and

women. Because, if you ask your husband something or talk to him about planning a cruise while he is in his nothing box – he may look like he is there, but in reality he may not be. If a man is in his ‘motorcycle box’ and you are trying to talk to him about something serious, he may give you the impression that he doesn’t care (which hurts your feelings) when the reality is he just wasn’t in the ‘woman’ box.

And Women are so jealous and wish that they had a nothing box. The closest they ever come to a nothing box is sleeping after taking Nyquil.

It seems by sheer genetics and DNA. Not only do they have periods, have to give birth, have menopause to look forward to etc. – **but they also DON’T have the pleasure of a ‘nothing box’ programmed in their brain so they can truly escape life every now and again.**

And the wife come to her husband and say Can PLEASE come into the NOTHING BOX, just for 5 minutes. NONONONONO

Because if you do, you will start to say, you are boring there is nothing here, Well Dah I thing you need some color her some picture frame in here. STOP and get out of my NOTHING BOX.

The Fall

Scripture Genesis 2:4–3:24

1. Read **Genesis 2:4–25**. Briefly describe what Eden was like and the life that Adam and Eve enjoyed there. Eden was a verdant garden paradise. Adam was given life, purpose, and everything he could ever need or want by God. He was even given a helper who was the perfect complement to him. Adam and Eve enjoyed the abundance of the garden as well as an unfettered intimacy with their Father God and each other.

2. Genesis 2 ends by telling us that Adam and Eve were “both naked and were not ashamed” (v. 25). What do you think this means?

Before they sinned, Adam and Eve had no cause for embarrassment or shame. They could be completely exposed without fear. They could be fully and freely themselves because they had nothing to hide from each other, from God, or from their own eyes. Their physical nakedness represented a spiritual nakedness.

3. From other passages in Scripture we know that there is such a being as Satan. He was created perfect but fell away from virtue through pride and he carried many other angelic beings with him in his rebellion against God. He presented himself in the garden at the beginning of

history as a serpent to tempt the first man and woman. What light do these verses give us on the identity and actions of this serpent?

† Matthew 13:19: The “evil one” snatches away God’s word that has been sown in a person’s heart.

† John 12:31: The “ruler of this world” will ultimately be “cast out.”

† Revelation 12:9: “The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world.”

4. In the chart below, compare the record of what God said to Adam in Genesis 2:9, 16, and 17 with how the Serpent and Eve portray what he said in Genesis 3:1–5. How did they challenge and change God’s word?

God	Serpent/Eve	Challenge and Change
“You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat.” (2:16–17)	Serpent: “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” (3:1)	Satan diminished God’s generous provision and expanded God’s prohibition making it seem unreasonable and ridiculous.
“You may surely eat of every tree of the garden.” (2:16)	Eve: “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden.” (3:2)	Eve diminished God’s generous provision and conveniently ignored God’s prohibition.
“The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of	Eve: “The tree that is in the midst of the garden.” (3:3)	Eve conveniently forgot the tree of life and focused instead on the forbidden tree and thus

the knowledge of good and evil.” (2:9)		weakened God’s lavish provision from which she was free to eat.
“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat.” (2:17)	Eve: “You shall not eat neither shall you touch it.” (3:3)	Eve assumed she could modify God’s word to suit her purposes of casting God in unreasonably restrictive light by amplifying his prohibition.
“You shall surely die.” (2:17)	Eve: “Lest you die.” (3:3)	Eve diminished the consequence from certain death to the possibility of death.
“For in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (2:17)	Serpent: “You will not surely die.” (3:4)	Satan directly contradicted God’s word, suggesting to Eve that God cannot be trusted.

5. What do we learn from this scene of temptation and sin about how Satan tempts us, and what it takes to stand firm against temptation?

Satan probably didn’t appear to be evil, but was likely beautiful and appealing. But they should have judged him as evil. Instead they listened as he ridiculed God’s word, questioned God’s word, added to God’s word, and finally refuted God’s word. Rather than rejecting outright what he said and running to God to report Satan’s blasphemy, Eve entertained his ideas, allowing them to fill her with discontent with God’s provision, and doubt about God’s goodness. Adam evidently was passive in the process.

To have stood firm against temptation would have required that they speak God's true word back to the serpent, reject his lies, and go directly to God to report this rebellion.

6. Read Genesis 3:6. What were the three appeals to Eve that led her to take and eat?

The fruit "was good for food"—she evaluated and convinced herself it would be good for her even though God had forbidden it.

"It was a delight to the eyes"—it was beautiful to her as she allowed herself to define what is beautiful rather than depending on God's definition of beauty.

It "was to be desired to make one wise"—she believed Satan's suggestion that this would make her wise like God, so that she would be able to judge what is good and what is evil. She did not realize that real wisdom is fearing and obeying God and that if she ate of it, she would then remember the good and experience the bitterness of evil.

7. Adam and Eve sought to cover up their sin by making coverings for themselves made of fig leaves, but this was inadequate. What are some modern-day cover-ups and excuses we try to string together to make ourselves okay with God?

Fig leaves: good works, good behavior, religious sincerity, religious ancestry

Excuses: "I am human!" "This is what I learned from the family you placed me in." "This is the way you made me." "I didn't know any better." "I'm no worse than anybody else; in fact I'm better than most people." "I'm just doing what comes naturally."

8. God entered the garden looking for Adam and Eve, and he asked three questions in verses 9 and 11. What are they, and why do you think he asked them?

God asks: "Where are you?" (2:9) and, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" (2:11)

Of course God already knew the answers to these questions, but he knew it would serve a redemptive purpose for Adam and Eve to be asked to answer them.

As sinners we must recognize and confess that we are away from God, that we have sinned against God, and that our sin has created a barrier between us and God. This confession is what leads us to repentance.

9. In Genesis 3:15, God's curse on the Serpent states that an offspring of the woman will "bruise" or "crush" the Serpent's head, while the

Serpent will bruise the heel of the promised offspring. What do the following Scriptures reveal about how Satan bruised the “heel” of the offspring of the woman, Jesus Christ?

† Matthew 16:23: Satan used Peter to tempt Jesus to avoid the cross.

† John 8:39–44: The religious leaders sought to kill Jesus, and Jesus said they were of their father the devil and their will was to do what the devil desires.

† John 13:2: The devil put it into the heart of Judas to betray Jesus.

10. How do the following Scriptures reveal how Christ has and will bruise or crush the “head” of Satan?

† Colossians 2:13–15: Demonic powers were stripped of their power to accuse Christians before God when our record of wrong was nailed to the cross of Christ and canceled.

† Hebrews 2:14–15: Through his death on the cross, Christ took away the sin that gives the devil the power of death; therefore, the devil’s power is destroyed.

† Revelation 12:11: Satan is conquered through the faithful testimony offered by believers.

† Revelation 20:7–10: At the end of history, Satan will be thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where he will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

11. In Genesis 3:4–24 we begin to see how things changed dramatically after Adam and Eve’s sin. In the chart below, see if you can identify some of the things that changed. (The first space has been filled in for you as an example).

Before the Fall	After the Fall
Adam and Eve were made in the image of God. (Gen. 1:26)	The image of God in Adam and Eve became marred by sin.
Adam and Eve exercised dominion or authority over the animals. (Gen. 1:26)	The animal world is no longer peaceful or sub-missive to Adam and Eve.
Adam and Eve lived under God’s blessing. (Gen. 1:28)	While God did not curse Adam and Eve directly (his curse will fall on Christ as their substitute), they now live in a world that is marked through and through by a curse.
Adam and Eve were given the responsibility and the ability to subdue the earth. (Gen. 1:28)	To be fruitful in childbirth is now going to be pain-ridden. And they will not be able to subdue the earth but will be victimized by it in all kinds of painful ways.
Adam was formed from the dust of the ground and given life. (Gen. 2:7)	Now man will return to dust when he is buried in the ground after he dies physically.

The plants in the garden grew easily and in abundance. (Gen. 2:9)	Now the ground produces thorns and thistles and nothing grows easily.
Adam and Eve lived in the garden. (Gen. 2:15)	Adam and Eve were banished from the garden and their work now became frustrating toil.
Adam and Eve enjoyed one-flesh intimacy with each other. (Gen. 2:23)	Rather than a helper with whom he could enjoy perfect one-flesh intimacy, the curse brought competition and strife to the marriage relationship.
Adam and Eve were naked and not ashamed. (Gen. 2:25)	Now they made themselves clothes and hid from God in shame and fear.

12. We are so used to speaking of “Adam and Eve” that we generally fail to notice that not until Genesis 3:20 is Adam’s wife actually called “Eve.” Up to this point, she has been called a “female” (1:27), a “helper fit” for Adam (2:18), a “woman” (2:22, 23), and a “wife” (2:24, 25; 3:8). But those are all descriptive terms and not names. Why is it significant, that Adam named his wife Eve, and why do you think it falls at this place in the story?

By naming his wife Eve, Adam reveals that he had heard and believed the grace that was laced in the curse. He believes that he and Eve will receive mercy and live to have offspring and that that offspring will provide a way to live again spiritually. Adam names her Eve before she has a child or even conceives, evidencing genuine faith in God’s promise.

13. Because of the faith of Adam expressed in the naming of Eve, God did for Adam and Eve what they could not do adequately for themselves: he provided a covering of animal skins perhaps the skin of a lamb. How does this point to the covering God has provided for us in our sin?

For Adam and Eve to be clothed with the skins of animals means the animal had to die. In a similar way, in order for us to be clothed with the righteousness of Jesus Christ, which is what the skins symbolized, Jesus had to die. It was necessary for the innocent One to die in order that the guilty might live.

14. God had promised that if they ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they would surely die. Now an animal has been slain, but they are still alive. What should this have told them about sin and about God?

The horror of their first glimpse of death as they looked at the dead animal's carcass showed them that sin is far worse than they imagined. Surely that made them determined to refuse to sin and to be obedient to God. It also showed them the mercy of God, who, though he had every right to take their lives, accepted the death of an innocent substitute.

15. How does the account of Adam and Eve’s fall point to Christ? Find the connections in the New Testament passages below, following the example given in the first block of the chart.

The Fall	Christ
<p>“The Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground.” (Gen. 2:7)</p>	<p>1 Cor. 15:47–49 Just as Adam was made of dust and returned to dust when he died, so are we made of dust. But Christ remakes us into his image so that our bod-ies will be resurrected and glorified.</p>
<p>“The Lord God . . . breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.” (Gen. 2:7)</p>	<p>John 5:21; 1 Cor. 15:45; 1 John 5:12 While Adam was given physical life by God breathing it into him, Christ breathes spiritual life into us through the Spirit.</p>
<p>“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (Gen. 2:17)</p>	<p>Matt. 26:26; John 6:51–52 Adam and Eve lost spiritual life by “taking and eating” that which was prohibited. But it is also through the act of taking and eating that spiriual and eternal life is restored—as we take and eat of Christ’s body.</p>
<p>“A man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” (Gen. 2:24)</p>	<p>Eph. 1:23; 5:31–32 The one-flesh love and unity of husband and wife pictures the one-flesh love and unity of Christ with his bride, the church.</p>
<p>“She took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.” (Gen. 3:6)</p>	<p>Rom. 5:12–21 Adam was “a type of the one who was to come” which is Christ. God intended that the sin-bringing Adam would point us to the sin-bearing Second Adam. While the</p>

	sin of Adam brought death, the righteousness of Christ brings life.
“They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day.” (Gen. 3:8)	Luke 19:10 God is always the initiator. Just as he walked in the garden seeking after Adam and Eve who were hiding because of their sin, so Jesus came to “seek and save” those lost in sin.
“Cursed are you. . . . Cursed is the ground because of you.” (Gen. 3:14, 17)	Gal. 3:13–14; Rev. 22:3 Because of sin the creation of God that had been blessed by God became cursed. But Christ came to take this curse upon himself so that we might again know and experience the blessing of God and will one day live in a new earth in which “no longer will there be anything accursed.”
“Cursed is the ground because of you; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you.” (Gen. 3:17, 18)	John 19:2 Thorns were a particularly vivid evidence of the curse brought on all creation by sin. So it is fitting that Jesus wore a crown of thorns as he took upon himself the curse of sin on the cross.
“I will put enmity between your offspring and her offspring.” (Gen. 3:15)	Mark 1:24 Jesus, who repeatedly exercised power over demons, is the ultimate offspring of the woman.
“He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” (Gen. 3:15)	Heb. 2:14; 1 John 3:8; Rev. 20:7–10 Satan “bruised” Christ’s heel on the cross, but Christ thereby “bruised his head” taking the power of death away from Satan. Satan will ultimately be destroyed by Christ.

<p>“The Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.” (Gen. 3:21)</p>	<p>Isa. 61:10; Rom. 4:7; Rev. 3:14–18 Just as God provided covering for Adam and Eve’s nakedness and shame by slaying an innocent animal and covering them with its skins, so has God provided covering for our sin and shame through the death of the Innocent One, covering us in his righteousness.</p>
<p>“He drove out the man, and placed the cherubim and a flaming sword . . . to guard the way to the tree of life.” (Gen. 3:24)</p>	<p>John 14:6; Heb. 10:19–22; Rev. 22:2 Jesus is the way back into life. Rather than being banished and forbidden to approach God, through Christ we are welcomed to boldly approach God. This tree of life will be in the middle of the New Jerusalem, which we will be welcomed to enter in the consummation.</p>