

FINDING OURSELVES IN GOD'S STORY

How we ended up lost in our own Story

1. We often think of sin as something trivial, as if it were merely breaking one of God's rules in the way that some of us break the speed limit on the highway. How does Genesis 3 confront this understanding of sin? *

2. Sin has marred our relationships with God, with each other, with the creation, and with ourselves. Discuss concrete ways in which we see or experience each of these relationships being broken and bent by sin.*

3. How have we experienced the "Did God really say?" whisper of the serpent? (see Gen 2:1f). And how have we sought to fight off this way of thinking?

4. After Adam and Eve ate the fruit, (in Gen 3:8f) we're told that they sewed fig leaves to cover themselves and then hid from God – afraid and ashamed. Most of us have done the same. As someone wise has said, "All of us have become adept at sewing fig leaves... We've developed strategies to cope with our sin..." Reflect together on the reality of this in our own lives, and why we do it...

5. Look at Genesis 3:9–13 – at the questions God asks of Adam and Eve. How have we experienced God asking us similar questions at crucial moments in our lives?

6. Where do you hear the goodness and grace of God in this part of the Story? Why do we need to hear this?

7. Have do the stories of creation and fall help us to make sense of the human experience – life on earth throughout history and in our own day? How does the Story help you make sense of your own story?

Praying Together

Turn your conversation to God in prayer. Name before God the ways this Story tells our own. Take some time to simply bow before God together. Invite anyone to share any needs or concerns, and pray together for one another.

[* from "The True Story of the Whole World", by Bartholomew and Goheen]

