



Training questions

1. How are the five cards logically related to each other? Fill in the 4 blanks above.
2. Why does it matter that we establish God as creator and ruler *before* explaining sin?
3. Some people prefer the explanation 'No to your *rules*'.
 - a. Why might people prefer 'No to your *rules*'?
 - b. How would this overlap in meaning with 'No to your *rule*'?
 - c. How do they differ, especially in possible misunderstanding?



Genesis 3:1-13 (NIVUK)

1. Humanity believes two lies about God (3:1-4)

a. 'God is not good' (3:1-3)

3 Now the snake was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God really say, "You must not eat from any tree in the garden"?"

²The woman said to the snake, 'We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, "You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die."'

b. 'God won't punish rebellion' (3:4)

⁴'You will not certainly die,' the snake said to the woman.

2. Humanity rejects God's rule (3:5-6)

**Shove off, God
I'm in charge
No to your rule!**

⁵'For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'

⁶When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

3. Humanity hides from God (3:7-13)

a. shame (3:7-10)

⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realised that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

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, 'Where are you?'

¹⁰He answered, 'I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.'

b. blame (3:11-13)

¹¹And he said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?'

¹²The man said, 'The woman you put here with me – she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.'

¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this you have done?'

The woman said, 'The snake deceived me, and I ate.'

Genesis 2:16-17

¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.'

Getting into the text

- 3:1-3
1. What is the literary effect of introducing the serpent through a question rather than an accusation?
 2. How does the woman's answer both repeat and subtly alter God's original command?
 3. How does the dialogue make the reader pay attention to exact wording?
 4. How does the conversation suggest that the issue is not merely fruit, but God's character?
- 3:4
5. What is the effect of the serpent moving from a question in 3:1 to a direct denial in 3:4?
 6. How does the bluntness of "you will not certainly die" create more tension in the scene?
- 3:5-6
7. To what desires does the serpent appeal?
 8. How does the verse highlight the *desire* behind the act of rebellion?
 9. Why do you think the actual eating is described so briefly by contrast?
- 3:7-10
10. What is the irony of their eyes being 'opened' in 3:7?
 11. How does the author use *show, don't tell* to highlight Adam and Eve's shame?
- 3:11-13
12. How has the theme of *knowledge* evolved since 3:6?
 13. What is the effect of God asking questions when he already knows what has happened?
 14. What do you make of Eve's response mirroring Adam's?

Challenging our worldview

1. Persuasive lies

Rate each of these variations of Satan's two lies, and add your own versions below.

Lie #1 – 'God is not good'

Not persuasive

Highly persuasive

'God doesn't want me to enjoy life'	1	2	3	4	5
'God is not generous to me'	1	2	3	4	5
'The Bible's sexual ethics are cruel, not loving'	1	2	3	4	5
'God is less compassionate than modern people'	1	2	3	4	5
'God just wants to control people, not care'	1	2	3	4	5
_____	1	2	3	4	5
_____	1	2	3	4	5

Lie #2 – 'God won't punish rebellion'

Not persuasive

Highly persuasive

'A loving God would never judge anyone'	1	2	3	4	5
'Hell, judgement, wrath – just religious scare talk'	1	2	3	4	5
'Nobody believes this stuff anyway!'	1	2	3	4	5
'I can repent later, once life calms down'	1	2	3	4	5
'It's only a small compromise, no big deal'	1	2	3	4	5
_____	1	2	3	4	5
_____	1	2	3	4	5

2. Thoughts before actions

What differences does it make that sin starts with unbelief (believing lies about God)? What would be insufficient about defining sin as *mere* actions?

3. Rebellion against ruler

What are the common ways we rebrand sin so it sounds less like rebellion against the Creator-King?

4. Shame

To what extent can you relate to wanting to hide from either God, or his people?

5. Blame

To what extent can you relate to wanting to blame God for your sin, rather than take personal responsibility?

Next meeting (Sun 7 June):

- Gospel logic #3 – Genesis 3:14-24
- Lord's Supper and Members' Meeting
- No car parking restrictions

