



Small Groups

Parish Community of Saint Helen

Genesis

Seven Life-Changing Encounters

With the God of New Beginnings

Chapter 3

Choices

1. Hospitality and Announcements: *15 minutes*
2. Opening Prayer ~ The Prayer on the Inside Cover of the Participant Book
Sir Richard of Chichester Prayer ~ *5 minutes*

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ,
For all the benefits and blessings
For which you have given me.
For all the pains and insults
which you have borne for me.
Merciful Friend, Brother and Redeemer.
May I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
Day by day.
Amen

3. Scripture: For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. (Genesis 3:5)

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/genesis/2> - Genesis 2:4-3:24

Chapter 2

4 This is the story* of the heavens and the earth at their creation. When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens—

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5 there was no field shrub on earth and no grass of the field had sprouted, for the LORD God had sent no rain upon the earth and there was no man^{*} to till the ground,
6 but a stream^{*} was welling up out of the earth and watering all the surface of the ground—
7 then the LORD God formed the man^{*} out of the dust of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.^d
8 The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east,^{*} and placed there the man whom he had formed.^e
9^{*} Out of the ground the LORD God made grow every tree that was delightful to look at and good for food, with the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.^f
10A river rises in Eden^{*} to water the garden; beyond there it divides and becomes four branches.
11 The name of the first is the Pishon; it is the one that winds through the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.
12 The gold of that land is good; bdellium and lapis lazuli are also there.
13 The name of the second river is the Gihon; it is the one that winds all through the land of Cush.^g
14 The name of the third river is the Tigris; it is the one that flows east of Asshur. The fourth river is the Euphrates.
15 The LORD God then took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it.^h
16 The LORD God gave the man this order: You are free to eat from any of the trees of the gardenⁱ
17 except the tree of knowledge of good and evil. From that tree you shall not eat; when you eat from it you shall die.^{* i}
18 The LORD God said: It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suited to him.^{* k}
19 So the LORD God formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each living creature was then its name.
20 The man gave names to all the tame animals, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals; but none proved to be a helper suited to the man.
21 So the LORD God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.^l
22 The LORD God then built the rib that he had taken from the man into a woman. When he brought her to the man,
23 the man said: “This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;

This one shall be called 'woman,' for out of man this one has been taken.”*

24^m That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body.*

25 The man and his wife were both naked, yet they felt no shame.*

Chapter 3

1 Now the snake was the most cunning* of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He asked the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You shall not eat from any of the trees in the garden?’”

2 The woman answered the snake: “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; 3^a it is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, ‘You shall not eat it or even touch it, or else you will die.’”

4 But the snake said to the woman: “You certainly will not die!^b

5 God knows well that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, who know* good and evil.”

6 The woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eyes, and the tree was desirable for gaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.^c

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

8 When they heard the sound of the LORD God walking about in the garden at the breezy time of the day,* the man and his wife hid themselves from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.^d

9 The LORD God then called to the man and asked him: Where are you?

10 He answered, “I heard you in the garden; but I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid.”

11 Then God asked: Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat?

12^T he man replied, “The woman whom you put here with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, so I ate it.”

13 The LORD God then asked the woman: What is this you have done? The woman answered, “The snake tricked me, so I ate it.”^e

14 Then the LORD God said to the snake:

Because you have done this, cursed are you among all the animals, tame or wild; On your belly you shall crawl, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.*^f

15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; They will strike at your head, while you strike at their heel.*^g

16 To the woman he said: I will intensify your toil in childbearing; in pain* you shall bring forth children. Yet your urge shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.

17 To the man he said: Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, You shall not eat from it, Cursed is the ground* because of you! In toil you shall eat its yield all the days of your life.^h

18 Thorns and thistles it shall bear for you, and you shall eat the grass of the field.

19 By the sweat of your brow you shall eat bread, Until you return to the ground, from which you were taken; For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.^l

20 The man gave his wife the name “Eve,” because she was the mother of all the living.*

21 The LORD God made for the man and his wife garments of skin, with which he clothed them.

22 Then the LORD God said: See! The man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil! Now, what if he also reaches out his hand to take fruit from the tree of life, and eats of it and lives forever?ⁱ

23 The LORD God therefore banished him from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he had been taken.

24 He expelled the man, stationing the cherubim and the fiery revolving sword east of the garden of Eden, to guard the way to the tree of life.

4. Watch [the video](#) and use the response sheet on page 46 - *20 minutes*

5. Small Group Discussion *20-30 minutes*

- Questions on Page 37–43 {whatever question speaks to you}
- Leave 5-10 minutes for Journaling on page 47 {Optional}

6. Closing Prayer ~ From the Back Cover of the Participant Guide

Prayer of a Dynamic Catholic *5 minutes*

Loving Father, I invite you into my life today and make myself available to you.

Help me to become the best version of myself by seeking your will and becoming a living example of your love in the world.

Open my heart to the areas of my life that need to change in order for me to carry out the mission and experience the joy you have imagined for my life.

Inspire me to live the Catholic faith in ways that are dynamic and engaging.

Show me how to best get involved in the life of my parish.

Make our community hungry for best practices and continuous learning.

Give me courage when I am afraid, hope when I am discouraged and clarity in times of decision.

Teach me to enjoy uncertainty and lead your Church to become all you imagined it would be for the people of our times. Amen

Note to Group:

Next week prior to the meeting ~

Scripture Focus: Genesis 4:8b

Suggested Reading: 4:1-14

Pages 52-57 In the workbook