

Everyday Life with God Daily Resources
God's Story...Our Story
For the week of January 10 – January 16

Sunday, January 10, 2015

Genesis 3:1-5 *The snake was the most intelligent of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say that you shouldn't eat from any tree in the garden?" The woman said to the snake, "We may eat the fruit of the garden's trees but not the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden. God said, 'Don't eat from it, and don't touch it, or you will die.'" The snake said to the woman, "You won't die! God knows that on the day you eat from it, you will see clearly and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

Reflection: Temptations. Everyone faces temptations. Everyone from time to time rationalizes why giving into a temptation isn't such a bad thing. In those times we look for others who will support our rationalizations. Isn't that what is going on here in this part of the story? How does this part of the story intersect your story?

Breath Prayer: (Inhale) *Forever I am...* (Exhale) *loved by God.*

Monday, January 11, 2015

Genesis 3:6-7 *The woman saw that the tree was beautiful with delicious food and that the tree would provide wisdom, so she took some of its fruit and ate it, and also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then they both saw clearly and knew that they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together and made garments for themselves.*

Reflection: Once we have our rational reasons for giving in, then all we can see is the momentary delight of what the temptation might bring. We are so enamored by the thrill of the moment that we invite others to join us. But when it is all over we see and feel the effect of giving in. We quickly want to cover up our sin. We feel guilty and ashamed. How does this part of the story intersect your story?

Breath Prayer: (Inhale) *Forever I am...* (Exhale) *loved by God.*

Tuesday, January 12, 2015

Genesis 3:8-11 *During that day's cool evening breeze, they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden; and the man and his wife hid themselves from the Lord God in the middle of the garden's trees. The Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" The man replied, "I heard your sound in the garden; I was afraid because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree, which I commanded you not to eat?"*

Reflection: When we do things that we know we shouldn't we become afraid of being caught. In those moments we feel naked and afraid. Because we feel guilty and ashamed we want to run and hide. That's when we have a choice. We can either give an honest confession of what we have done or we can try to defend ourselves by making up another story. How does this part of the story intersect your story?

Breath Prayer: (Inhale) *Forever I am...* (Exhale) *loved by God.*

Wednesday, January 13, 2015

Genesis 3:12-13 *The man said, "The woman you gave me, she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate." The Lord God said to the woman, "What have you done?!" And the woman said, "The snake tricked me, and I ate."*

Reflection: The blame game, who hasn't played it before? Instead of owning our sin, those actions that separate us from God, others and our true self, we try to place the blame on someone else. We call this

scapegoating. The old line, “The Devil made me do it” is still used by us today. How does this part of the story intersect your story?

Breath Prayer: (Inhale) *Forever I am...* (Exhale) *loved by God.*

Thursday, January 14, 2015

Genesis 3:14-19 *The Lord God said to the snake, “Because you did this, you are the one cursed out of all the farm animals, out of all the wild animals. On your belly you will crawl, and dust you will eat every day of your life. I will put contempt between you and the woman, between your offspring and hers. They will strike your head, but you will strike at their heels.” To the woman he said, “I will make your pregnancy very painful; in pain you will bear children. You will desire your husband, but he will rule over you.” To the man he said, “Because you listened to your wife’s voice and you ate from the tree that I commanded, ‘Don’t eat from it,’ cursed is the fertile land because of you; in pain you will eat from it every day of your life. Weeds and thistles will grow for you, even as you eat the field’s plants; by the sweat of your face you will eat bread—until you return to the fertile land, since from it you were taken, you are soil, to the soil you will return.”*

Reflection: Sometimes giving into temptation comes with a great and painful price. It can feel as though God is punishing us. But could the results be a way God lovingly and graciously helps us to see that sin is not without its effect on us and others? How does this part of the story intersect your story?

Breath Prayer: (Inhale) *Forever I am...* (Exhale) *loved by God.*

Friday, January 15, 2015

Genesis 3:20-21a *The man named his wife Eve because she is the mother of everyone who lives. The Lord God made the man and his wife leather clothes and dressed them. The Lord God said, “The human being has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil.”*

Reflection: In Francis Thompson’s remarkable poem, “The Hound of Heaven,” we see how God is always seeking us. God is like the hound of heaven, forever on our trail. Even after Adam and Eve separated themselves from God and each other, God still pursued them with love and grace. God still saw them as one with Him. How does this part of the story intersect your story?

Breath Prayer: (Inhale) *Forever I am...* (Exhale) *loved by God.*

Saturday, January 16, 2015

Genesis 3:21b-24 *Now, so he doesn’t stretch out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat and live forever, the Lord God sent him out of the Garden of Eden to farm the fertile land from which he was taken. He drove out the human. To the east of the Garden of Eden, he stationed winged creatures wielding flaming swords to guard the way to the tree of life.*

Reflection: We can never go back to what once was. Adam and Eve had to leave the garden and God goes with them into the pain, suffering and disappointments of everyday life. It is outside of the beauty of the garden that they experience God’s grace at work in the ordinariness and harshness of life. There they will find a new kind of joy and blessing. There they will till the land that has been given to them and there they will create a new and different garden. How does this part of the story intersect your story?

Breath Prayer: (Inhale) *Forever I am...* (Exhale) *loved by God.*