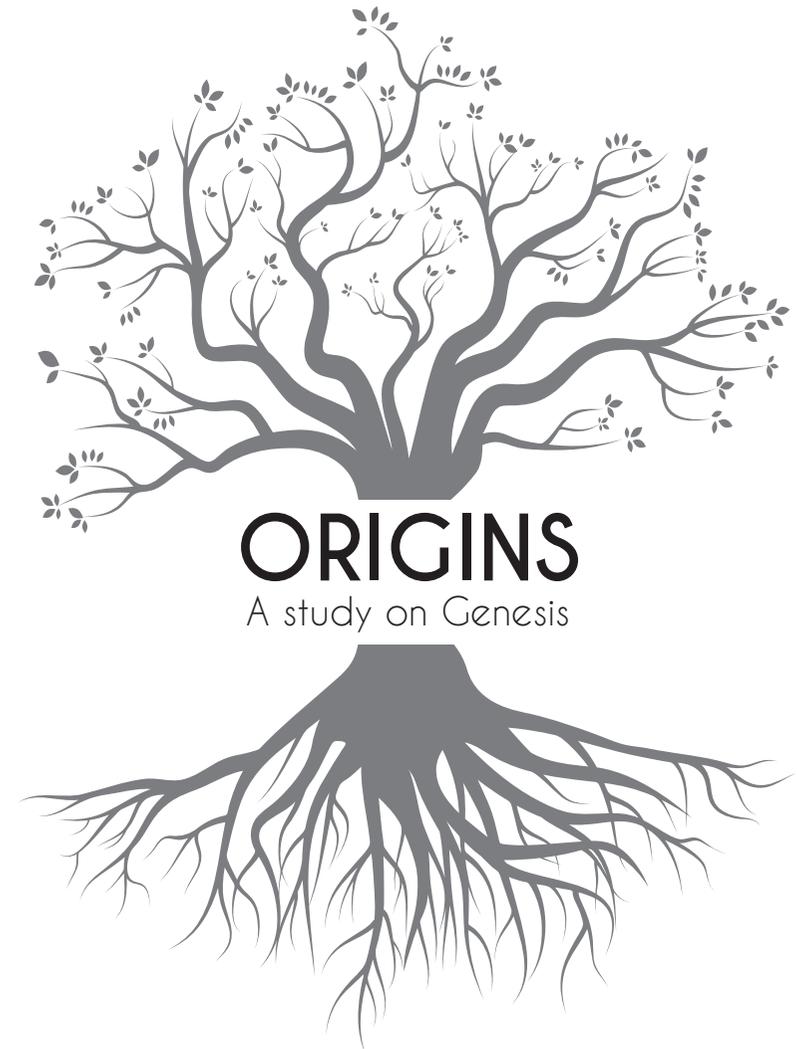


3. GENESIS 3:1-24

1. Chapter 3 reveals the outworking of temptation, sin and the consequences of sin. How are each of these three phases portrayed in the Genesis narrative?
2. What is the serpent's strategy and how do we see it played out in our own experience?
3. Temptation is portrayed as a conversation. When we are assailed by temptation, is there always a conversation and who with – ourselves, fellow sinners, the devil? The one conversation that doesn't seem to take place is between Eve and Adam; why not? How might such a conversation have changed the dynamics at work here? How can right conversations help us in resisting temptation?
4. What does this story tell us about our tragic neglect of consequences whenever we entertain temptation and allow it to lead us into sin?
5. How does God's conversation with Adam and Eve differ in tone and purpose from that of the serpent?
6. If we turn from Genesis 3 to Romans 7:14-25, what do we see about our participation in the consequences of this original disobedience? Does Paul's description leave you hopeless? What, in your view, is the link between the Cross, the Tree of Life and our banishment from the garden?



1. GENESIS 1:1-2:3

1. Eleven times the Bible records God speaking things into being in Genesis chapter 1, why do you think there is this emphasis on God speaking creation into being?
2. As we open our hearts to the grandeur of the opening chapter of the Bible, what responses does it call forth from us?
3. Genesis starts with the words “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”, but in the New Testament passages like John 17:5 and Ephesians 1:4 point to profound realities before the “in the beginning” of Genesis 1, how does this enrich our picture of both the source and purpose of creation?
4. John Piper writes, “God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him.” How should we live in joyous response to the lavish generosity of God in creation?
5. The creation account shows God bringing order, beauty and harmony out of a situation of chaos, in what ways do we need to trust God to do this in our situations and in our society?
6. In 1 Corinthians 3:9 Paul says “for we are God’s fellow-workers” (cf. also 2 Corinthians 6:1). What are the practical implications for us in our families, workplaces, church and wider community, to share in the ongoing creative work of God?

2. GENESIS 2:4-25

1. One of the things the Genesis account does is help us locate ourselves within God’s creation. What insights can we gain about our identity and role from the picture of God’s creation of Adam in verse 7? In what ways is it a unique act of creation and why is that important?
2. What is the significance of God placing the man in a garden? What sort of garden was it and what was the man’s role within it?
3. From what we learn here, is work a blessing or a curse? What are the implications for how we approach our work?
4. Obviously the creation of Eve speaks to us about marriage, but, prior to that, it calls our attention to the social dimension of what it means for us to be created in the image of God. What do we learn about the man’s relationship to the animals and the birds? What is different for the man when he sees a fellow human being?
5. We are sexual beings, and our gender is inevitably a major aspect of every inter-personal encounter and relationship we participate in. Adam and Eve are spoken of as being “naked and unashamed”, what does that tell us about God’s purpose for us in relationship, and about being “comfortable in our own skin”?
6. What does verse 24 teach us about the full significance of marriage? How does this expand further your understanding of the church as the “bride of Christ” and the picture of the wedding banquet in heaven in the book of Revelation?