



"Fear of God"

January 23-29, 2011

PRAYER

- **Begin with a few moments of sharing thanks and praises in prayer**

OPEN

When you were a kid, what was "off limits" to you? Were you ever tempted to push the envelope? What were the results?

READ

Read Genesis 3:1-24

REFLECT:

What does the word "Genesis" mean? It's a Greek word meaning "origin." It is the first of the 5 books called the Pentateuch or "Books of the Law."

From the message:

Verses 1-6 You hear the words of ____ (deception) ____

Verses 7-13 You hear the words of ____ (love) ____

Verses 14, 16-19 You hear the words of ____ (judgment) ____

Verses 15, 20-24 You hear the words of ____ (grace) ____

STUDY

What human weakness do you think the serpent exploited as he convinced Eve to taste the forbidden fruit? (greed, hunger, unbelief, pride, selfishness, independent nature)

Why did Adam and Eve hide? (ashamed of their disobedience, embarrassed about their nakedness, afraid of God's sure judgment)

Who do you feel was most responsible for what happened? (Answers vary – Adam, Eve, the serpent, God)

How do you feel about God's judgment in this story? (Answers vary – too harsh, just what they deserved, too easy, rich in mercy)

Adam and Eve tried to cover up their shame with fig leaves. How do you generally react when you sin? (don't tell anyone, make excuses, hide, take responsibility for my action, confess to God, try and find someone to share the blame with, other?)

How has the relationship changed between the man and the woman?

How has the relationship between which they had with God changed?

Here are three ways we can relate to God:

1. No Fear/No relationship – (Additional reading Psalm 36:1-4)

2. Fear God/No relationship – (Additional reading Matthew 25:14, 15, 24-30)

3. Fear God/Not afraid – (Additional reading Exodus 33:12-23)

Which category do you fit into regarding how you relate to God?

How would you describe your relationship with God at the moment?

How can this group pray for you?