

International Conversation Cafe

Community Group: Satan's Lie

The first book in the Bible, Genesis, tells the story of God's creation of the world and mankind. As the story unfolds, we see another character. His name is Satan.

Genesis 3

The serpent was more clever than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. The serpent said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat the fruit of any tree that is in the garden?'"

²The woman said to the serpent, "We can eat the fruit of the trees that are in the garden. ³But God did say, 'You must not eat the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden. Do not even touch it. If you do, you will die.'"

⁴"You can be sure that you won't die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵"God knows that when you eat the fruit of that tree, you will know things you have never known before. You will be able to tell the difference between good and evil. You will be like God."

⁶The woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good to eat. It was also pleasing to look at. And it would make a person wise. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her. And he ate it.

⁷Then both of them knew things they had never known before. They realized they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together and made clothes for themselves.

⁸Then the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking in the garden. It was the coolest time of the day. They hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹But the LORD God called out to the man. "Where are you?" he asked.

¹⁰"I heard you in the garden," the man answered. "I was afraid. I was naked, so I hid."

¹¹The LORD God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten the fruit of the tree I commanded you not to eat?"

¹²The man said, "It was 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 have you done?"

The woman said, "The serpent tricked me. That's why I ate the fruit."

The Bible tells us that it was Satan who appeared to Adam and Eve in the form of a snake to turn them against God. Satan is a spiritual being who still exists today and continues to deceive people by giving us false ideas about who God is and what he desires.

What are the characteristics of the serpent?

How did the serpent cast doubt on the goodness of God?

Why do you think Satan wanted to trick Eve into disobeying God's command?

Take turns reading the other ways that Satan is described in the Bible:

- 2 Corinthians 4:4 “The god of this world has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They can’t see the light of the good news of Christ’s glory.”
- John 8:44 “From the beginning, the devil was a murderer. He has never obeyed the truth. There is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his natural language. He does this because he is a liar. He is the father of lies.”
- 1 Peter 5:8 “Your enemy the devil is like a roaring lion. He prowls around looking for someone to chew up and swallow.”
- Luke 8:12 “People on the path are those who hear. But then the devil comes. He takes away the message from their hearts. He does it so they won’t believe. Then they can’t be saved.”
- 2 Corinthians 11:14 “And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.”

When reading these descriptions of Satan, what adjectives come to your mind?

What does it mean to “masquerade”?

What are some lies that you think Satan is telling people in the world today?

Satan is also described as a thief by Jesus recorded in John 10:10. “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so they can have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way.”

Contrast what Jesus gives and Satan gives.

In what way does Satan destroy people? Think of examples from the Bible and outside of the Bible.

In what way does Jesus give life. Think of examples from the Bible and outside the Bible.