

These questions are for the March 15, 2026, message, “Judgment and Grace.” Please read the sermon passage (Genesis 3:8-21) out loud.

Passage Outline

God’s judgment and grace toward sinners:

1. Accountability (8-13). God’s gaze.
 - a. Adam and Eve wrote the book on trying to avoid accountability to God, if possible:
 - i. Covering-up (7), Hiding (8), Fearing (10), Minimizing (10) and Blaming (12-13).
 - ii. Deep in their hearts, they knew they were guilty (7).
 - b. God came to them (and will come to all of us) to “demand account” (see Rom 14:12).
 - i. He commanded obedience (2:17), just like He does for all of us.
 - ii. He arrived in the world He owns to inspect (3:8), just like He will for all of us.
2. Judgment (14-19). Our groan.
 - a. Broken because of rebellion: relationships with God, self, each other, and nature/earth.
 - b. Serpent: you will eat dust: permanent abasing and complete humiliation.
 - c. Woman: increased pain in key roles: childbearing and marriage.
 - d. Man: increased pain in key roles: the ground is cursed (see 2:15). “Dust”=death (3:19).
3. Grace (9, 15 & 20-21). God’s grace toward rebels.
 - a. God inspects all including you and those who wrong you. He’s the Judge (9).
 - b. God makes a promise. The “Offspring” will crush the head of the enemy (15).
 - c. God provides for/clothes Adam and Eve. Restoration and payment for sin (20-21).

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: God knows everything about our sin, including actions, words and motives. He knows what we are thinking and harboring in our hearts right this minute. We think that concealing our sin is to our advantage. Why is concealing our sin a great disadvantage? How does it impact us? How does concealing prolong our rebellion?
2. Based on #1, above: When God arrives to inspect His world (and your heart), He does so with forgiveness for those who are loyal to Him (see Psalm 23:6), and judgement for those who are not loyal to Him. How do we know in which camp we reside?
3. Based on #2, above: We live “in between the Gardens,” in a time of groaning, but having access to forgiveness. Talk about real pain that you have experienced in a key role in your life. How does it help you to think of your groaning as self-imposed? Temporary?
4. Based on #3, above: Read through the grace which God offered Adam and Eve from the beginning: He will judge, and the grading curve will not be changed; He will provide an “Offspring” who will bear the judgment that you deserve; in the meantime, He will provide for your every need. How does God’s grace cause you to worship and love Him?
5. To be completely clear: rebels get grace when we repent of being loyal to the evil one, and return to loyalty to God and God’s Savior, Jesus Christ, alone. Discuss.