

Back To The Garden – The Problem

Lesson 4

Part 1

- What do we see in the story that had gone wrong before they had ever eaten from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?
- What do you think might have caused them to become fixated on the wrong tree? Our tendency is to blame the serpent, but Eve's answer indicates that her heart had already shifted. What do you think they were struggling with?
 - There is no right or wrong answer to this question. We believe that the author of Genesis wants us to wrestle with this because it's the same thing we need to wrestle with in our own lives.

Part 2

- Has there ever been a time in your life where you were sick and treating the symptoms didn't work? What happened and how long did it take you to realize you needed to do something different?
- If we look at sin as a symptom, what are some of the things that it might be a symptom of? For example, lying is a sin... but what is the person struggling with that would cause a person to want to lie?

Part 3

- Has there ever been a time in your life where someone used shame or condemnation to get you to stop doing something? Did that move you closer to God or cause you to struggle with God?
- How can loving someone be an effective way to combat sin and struggle in their lives?
- How does embracing God's great love for us help us combat sin and struggle in our lives?
- As a church our experience has been that this topic is really hard for people to wrestle with. What do you think makes it so difficult for so many?