

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 09.17.2023

BREAKING SATANIC AGREEMENTS – GENESIS 3:1-24

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles or observations stood out to you from this week’s message? Discuss with your group.

Miles McPherson is the pastor of the Rock Church in San Diego, former defensive back for the San Diego Chargers, author, actor, motivational speaker, and founder of DoSomethingChurch.org. Miles is a unifier who makes the hope of the gospel real, relevant, and accessible, to empower people to make a difference in the world. Today Miles teaches us how to break satanic agreements that we have made when we choose to disobey God and agree with Satan. Let’s get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most from Pastor Miles’ sermon?
2. How have your own shortcomings contributed to your plans failing?

Things don’t always go according to our plans because we live in a fallen, broken world. However, we must not assume that we are merely victims of a sinful world—we have contributed to the brokenness of the world with our own rebellion against God. Life doesn’t go according to our plan not just because we live in a fallen world, but because we are fallen people. We often give in to the lies of the Devil and trust in our own strength instead of looking to God for strength, mercy, and direction. Today we will look at how the fall has corrupted us and in so doing will see our desperate need for Christ.

Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ GENESIS 3:1-5.

1. In verse 1, what did the serpent try to get Eve to question?
2. What did God actually say (see Gen. 2:16-17) to Adam and Eve? How is that different from what the serpent said?
3. What did the serpent say about God’s command in verses 4 and 5? What did he imply about God’s character? What did he imply about God’s motives?

The first words God said to man were “You are free” (Gen. 2:16). Adam was free to eat of any tree of the garden, except the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. The serpent was trying to get Eve to question God’s Word and convince her God was holding out on her. Satan also called God’s motives for mankind into question by suggesting God wanted less than what was best for them. Satan questioned God’s Word, character, and motives.

1. Has there ever been a time in your life when you viewed God’s prohibition of something as unfair but later came to understand He was protecting you for your good?
2. How do people make agreements with Satan? (i.e., make you think is ok to watch porn, or pursue other relationships outside of marriage.)
3. What are some of Satan’s schemes in trying to get you to doubt Gods word and pursue sin and temptation?

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Satan still uses our desires as well as half-truths to tempt us. We want more for ourselves and are willing to ignore God’s guidance and commands to get what we desire. We sometimes feel God is against us or withholding something we need or deserve, so we ignore His instruction to get what we want.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ GENESIS 3:6

1. What things did Eve perceive to be desirable in the fruit she was forbidden by God to eat? What is the relationship between desire and disobedience??

The serpent’s words accomplished their purpose. The woman believed the serpent’s statements that God was withholding something good and that the punishment of death for disobedience constituted an empty threat. Furthermore, the fruit seemed to offer only benefits with no consequences. We know that the serpent, Adam, and Eve all transgressed God’s command. Each of them was guilty of disobeying God’s word, as are we. And every time we choose to disobey, we are proclaiming to God that we are wiser than He is. We are “crafty,” and we deserve condemnation.

2. Can you think of other examples of how a temptation to sin promised more than was actually experienced?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ GENESIS 3:7-13

1. Were Adam and Eve covering themselves to hide from each other or from God? Why?

There’s no question that Adam and Eve felt a deep sense of guilt for their sin. The couple’s desire to cover their nakedness from each other indicated a deeper rift had occurred. In the past they had stood before each other naked, each able to see the other as he or she was, and each trusting the other for acceptance. The shame of guilt created a lack of trust, causing them to hide the truth from one another and from God.

2. In what ways do we try to hide ourselves from other people? In what ways do we also try to hide from God?
3. What were Adam’s and Eve’s explanations for their disobedience (vv. 12-13)? Why do people often cast blame on someone or something when confronted about their wrongdoing?

Sin is incredibly destructive. Everyone has sinned and experienced alienation from God. Motivated by shame and fear, we have tried hiding from God or ignoring Him, hoping He would not notice or would forget our disobedience. Attempts to shift the blame to others like Adam and Eve produces greater alienation and guilt.

ASK SOMEONE TO READ GENESIS 3:14-24

1. What consequences did Adam and Eve face as a result of their sin? How have you personally experienced the effects of these curses even today?

God punished the serpent, the woman, and the man, drastically changing their lives (and thus also the lives of their descendants) forever. Life would be difficult. Their sin had driven a wedge between themselves and God. Their previous life was forever gone. They had sinned and thus had to live with the consequences. Sin entered into the world and the consequence of sin entered as well: death.

2. What is the significance of God making skins for Adam and Eve and clothing them (Gen. 3:21)? What would have had to happen for the Lord to give them clothing made of skins?

Genesis 3:21 is the first sacrifice ever made in the Bible. For God to give Adam and Eve skins implies that an animal had been killed. This sacrifice was made by God on behalf of Adam and Eve. This event foreshadows what God would

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eventually do about all sin, not just that of Adam and Eve. He sent Jesus, the Lamb of God, to die for our sins so that if we believe in Him, we are made right before God.

Applying God’s Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Miles challenged everyone to renounce any agreements they had with Satan. These agreements could actually be temptations we pursue without recognizing the consequences. Have everyone read the following renouncement of any Satanic ties and full surrender to Christ.

1. Where might you be tempted to blur the lines, downplay, or even redefine the sin in your life as something other than sin?
2. How might you address those issues this week? When is it easiest and most difficult for you to confess sin to God and other people?
3. How can we encourage one another this week in our battle with sin and with remembering our true identity in Christ?

PRAYER TO RENOUNCE THE DEVIL AND OBEY CHRIST:

Breaking My Agreements

In Jesus Name, I voluntarily declare that Jesus is Lord of all.

I declare that Jesus died and rose from the dead, defeating the power of Satan and disarming all evil principalities and powers.

I declare Matt 28:18 that Jesus has all authority on heaven and earth.

I surrender all authority in my life to Jesus and declare that Jesus is my Lord and Savior

I exercise the power of Jesus name over all the evil influences in my life.

I repent and break all agreements with the devil.

I release myself of all guilt and shame related to my satanic agreements.

In Jesus name, I break the power of evil spirits involved in my life.

Satan, in Jesus’ name, I command you out of my life.

Jesus, I Ask that you fill me with the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, I invite you to take over my life.

Holy Spirit I Ask that you empower me transform me and use me!

In Jesus name I declare that I am free!

“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” (1 John 4:4)