

10-MINUTE BIBLE LESSON
Sometimes a Snake Is Just a Snake
Genesis 3:1-7

Before watching the video: what do you believe about how the universe began? What did you learn in science classes or in a religious tradition? If you've ever heard about, been taught about, or read Genesis 3, what have you believed or assumed it says or means?

Now read the passage twice. Take your time to notice every sentence and phrase. What stands out to you?

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. – **Genesis 3:1-7**

Think about popular portrayals of this part of the story. How has each character here been presented, and how well do these depictions actually reflect what the passage says? What difference do you think it makes whether the serpent, woman, fruit, and man represent certain things, vs. when this passage is allowed to speak on its own terms?

Conclude in prayer. Thank God for blessings, ask forgiveness for wrongs done, request help for uncertainty. Close with "amen."

