

Week Four: *Living Forever*
Genesis 3

Spend FIFTEEN – Day One

1. To begin your FIFTEEN for the week, take some time to read Genesis 3. Read the whole chapter, only 24 verses, but focus specifically on verses 17-24. Does anything stick out to you?
2. Notice verse 3 of Genesis 3. Eve clearly understood and knew what God had told her and Adam. So why do you think she disobeyed?
3. What does verse 6 say about why Eve took the fruit from the tree?
4. Think about a time in your life, either recently or when you were little, that you wanted something *so* bad that you did whatever it took to get it, even if you knew what you did was wrong. Describe how it felt to want something that much.
5. Once you got what you were wanting, how did you feel? Was it as good as you thought? Why or why not?
6. How do you think Adam and Eve felt after getting what they thought they wanted?
7. To finish your FIFTEEN for today, pray that God would reveal more of who he is to you this week. Pray that you would better see how much God loves you, even when it doesn't feel like it.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two

8. To begin your FIFTEEN for today, reread Genesis 3. Is there anything new or noteworthy you got out of it after reading it again today?
9. In verse 8, what do Adam and Eve try to do after eating the fruit?
10. Did their hiding work? Did God find them?
11. When God finds them and confronts Adam about what he has done, does Adam accept responsibility or not? What about when God confronts Eve? Does she accept responsibility?
12. It never works to hide from God. You've probably experienced that in your own life. Can you think of a time when you felt like you needed to hide from God? How did you feel?

13. As we'll look at more tomorrow, even when we disobey God and feel shame and guilt and want to hide from him, he *still* loves us and comes running after us to take care of us and bring us back to him. As you close your FIFTEEN in prayer today, thank God for his crazy, unending, reckless love. Ask him to help you love others like he loves.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three

14. To begin your FIFTEEN for today, read Genesis 3:17-24. In verse 17, God blames Adam for listening to Eve. Why do you think that is? Is it really Adam's fault?

15. At the end of verse 19 God says to Adam, "For dust you are and to dust you will return." Does that sound like Adam is going to live forever?

16. Notice that in verse 21, even though Adam and Eve disobeyed God and sinned against him, he still took care of them and provided for their needs. What does this tell you about God and his nature?

17. Does it seem harsh that God banned Adam and Eve from the garden forever? Why or why not?

18. Can you think of a time when it felt like God was punishing you or treating you too harshly?

19. To close your FIFTEEN for today, spend some time in prayer. Ask God to help you see those times when he is molding and shaping you into more of who he wants you to be. Ask him to give you the strength to see through the pain that you may feel in those times.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four

20. To begin your FIFTEEN for today, read Genesis 3:17-24 once again.

21. Yesterday we talked about how God still took care of Adam and Eve by providing for their needs, even after they sinned against him. God *still* loved Adam and Eve, even though they sinned and even though they could no longer live forever on the earth. How does that make you feel?

22. Just like he didn't want Adam and Eve to live in their fallen state forever, God doesn't want us to live in our fallen state forever either. Through his sacrificial love, he has also made a way for us to live forever with him in Heaven. How does this change how we should view death?

23. Read 1 John 4:8. What does it say about God and his nature?

24. Notice that it says God *IS* love. It's not what he does or how he feels. It's who he *IS*. How does this make you feel about

God?

25. Now read Romans 5:8. How does or how did God express that love he has for us, at least according to this verse?
26. As you finish your FIFTEEN for today, spend some time thinking about how great and marvelous God's love is. Throughout the day, try to keep in mind how far God went to show us how much he loves us.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five

27. Have you ever been treated surprisingly well by someone who you neglected or mistreated? If so, how did that make you feel?
28. Read John 15:13. In a way, that's kind of what God does for us each and every day. Because of our sinfulness, we continually reject God and sin against him. But does he treat us the same way in return? No, he shows us far more love and compassion than we ever deserve! Look at John 15:13 again. It says that no one has greater love than God. And he expressed it by sending Jesus to die on our behalf. Jesus paid the price that you and I deserve! Spend some time thinking about that! Jot down your reactions to these thoughts.
29. Now read Ephesians 5:25. What does it say about how we should love?
30. Even though this verse specifically talks about a marriage relationship, it can apply to all our relationships as well. We are commanded to love one another as Christ loved us. That's a pretty high standard to try to meet, don't you think? How would you rate yourself in this area?
31. While we'll never fully be able to love as Christ loves us, we can certainly do our part and try to do the best we can. Think about some practical ways you can better love those around you. Maybe a friend, neighbor, or coworker comes to mind.
32. As you finish your final FIFTEEN for this week, spend some time in prayer again. Ask God to open your heart to better understand and appreciate the love he shows each of us. Then ask him to open your eyes to better see those in your life who you can better love in return.