



## SUNDAY SERMON STUDY GUIDE

November 27

Lead Pastor Brian Bales

**How to Have a Wonderful Life**

*Right Place for the Right Time*

*Genesis 3:1-15*

**Genesis 3:1-15** (ESV) Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”<sup>2</sup> And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,<sup>3</sup> but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”<sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.<sup>5</sup> For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

<sup>8</sup> And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.<sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”<sup>10</sup> And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”<sup>11</sup> He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”<sup>12</sup> The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”<sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

<sup>14</sup> The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.<sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring<sup>[e]</sup> and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

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**Series Introduction:** This is the first sermon of a new series, “*How to Have a Wonderful Life.*” While we in this world may think differently, communicate and act differently, there is one common desire that everyone has. We want to be fulfilled... all we want is that wonderful life that is presented in songs, movies, social media and so many other places. Yet too often it is just a dream. So many search earnestly and yet wind up hurt, confused, and tired. They live well-meaning, but frustrated and unfilled lives.

Why is this so? It is because too many of us have been looking for the *right thing in the wrong place.* Yet, we are not without hope if we learn over the next few weeks “*How to Have a Wonderful Life.*” But a caution, a wonderful life might not mean what you think it means or look the way you might think it looks.

### A LIFE APPLICATION STUDY GUIDE

James 1:22-25 tells us to put into practice what we are discovering in God’s word.



2. Brian made several points that we must look at more closely. Disobeying God opened their eyes, but the outcome was a knowledge of good and evil that did not give them hope but instead, it brought shame and fear. They quickly discovered their way was not better than God's and the consequences were destructive to life as they had known it.

a. Consider a time when you made a choice, and the consequences were painful. What would you have done differently if you had a *do over*?

c. How were you impacted by Miquel's testimony?

3. God's search for Adam and Eve reminds us that, even when we sin, God does not abandon us. God could have walked away and started over, yet he chose not to.

a. How did God draw out Adam and Eve by gently questioning them?

b. What do you hold in your worldview from this profound example of God's loving kindness in the face of your own sin and mistakes?

c. How are you currently modelling this aspect of God's moral character to your family, neighbors and colleagues?



## **MAKING IT REAL**

- How will you speak about the hope (that we as Christ Followers have) to others who are searching for *how to have a wonderful life?*