

Week 4 Participant: The Gardens of God

Session 4: Week of March 30, 2025

The Garden of Second Chances – *Genesis 3:20-24*

Brewster Baptist Church

Connecting

Do you have a favorite article of clothing that you like to wear or wear a lot? Perhaps something someone gave you? What is it and what makes it special to you?

Genesis 3:20-24 (NRSV)

20 The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all living. 21 And the Lord God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife, and clothed them.

22 Then the Lord God said, "See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"— 23 therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. 24 He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a sword flaming and turning to guard the way to the tree of life.

Questions for Discussion

1. How does the image of God as a caring tailor (Genesis 3:21) enlarge your understanding of God's character and the Lord's relationship with humanity?
2. In what ways have you experienced God's nurturing love and care, even after moments of failure or disobedience in your life?
3. God's act of clothing Adam and Eve addresses their shame and vulnerability. How does God help us with our shame and vulnerability today?

4. Discuss the paradox of judgment and mercy in God's decision to expel Adam and Eve from the Garden. How do you see this balance of justice and grace in your own life or in the world around you?
5. Life outside the Garden represents a "second chance" for Adam and Eve. How can we embrace the concept of second chances in our own lives and in our relationships with others?
6. In what ways can you reflect God's nurturing love and offer "second chances" to those around you who have fallen, made mistakes, or hurt you?
7. How does understanding the events in Genesis 3:20-24 deepen your appreciation for Christ's sacrifice and the concept of redemption in the Gospel?

Praying for Each Other

Are there any joys to celebrate, any burdens we can share?

Closing Prayer: Loving Creator, we thank you for your unfailing love and grace, even when we fall short. Just as you gave Adam and Eve a second chance after their disobedience, we're grateful for your mercy and forgiveness. Thank you for not abandoning us but for offering us the opportunity to turn back to you, no matter how far we may stray. Help us to embrace your grace and extend that same forgiveness to others. May we always seek your guidance and live in the hope of the second chances you so freely give. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.