

MOOREBANK HAMMONDVILLE ANGLICAN CHURCHES
Questions for discussion and reflection – 3rd May 2015
Genesis 3 – The God who... deals with rebels

1. When bad things happen, what do people say to try to make sense of it? Think of as many different explanations – Christian and non-Christian – as you can.

Read Genesis 3 Does anything stand out to you? How does it make you feel? Is there anything you are unsure about? (note: you don't need to solve them at this point in the study, just mention them)

Thinking about sin...

2. Read also 2:16-17. How do the serpent and Eve twist God's word?
3. What do the serpent's words and Eve's words suggest about God's character? Does that match the God described in chapters 1-2 of Genesis?
4. In verse 5, it isn't education that is meant but "Knowing good and evil like God" means "deciding what is right and wrong for themselves". How are the man and woman treating God by eating the fruit?
5. When we lie, steal, are wrongly angry, slander, act immorally or are greedy (and etc) – do we think we are rejecting God? Discuss how these sins are a rejection/or defiance of God?

Thinking about the God who deals with rebels...

6. Why does God look for the man and woman in verse 8, and ask them questions he already knows the answers to in verses 9, 11 and 13?
7. Pain in childbirth (v16), pain in marriage (v16), pain in working (v17), returning to dust (v19). Read 1:28 and 2:16-17 - how do God's punishments relate to human identity and purpose?
8. How do the punishments relate to the man and woman's rejection of God? Why has God punished them in this way?
9. What sets God apart from being just a harsh ruler?
10. Read Romans 8:18-25. How does Paul summarize God's punishments from Genesis 3?
11. Think of some examples from present experience of how God's punishments have come about.
12. Read verses 7 and 21. What were the fig leaves for? Why does God clothe them? What is wrong with our human attempts to deal with sin?
13. Read verses 22-24. Why doesn't God want the man and woman to live forever now that they have "become like him"? Is it positive or negative?
14. How do passages such as Isaiah 53:5, 12b and 2 Corinthians 5:21 to complete the picture of the God who deals with rebels?
15. Putting it all together, how does God deal with rebels (the bad news, the good news)?