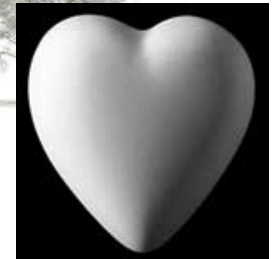
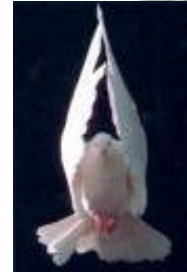


# WISDOM FROM GENESIS 1-3



Central Sydney Term 2  
Presbyterian Church 2008



## NOTES

# Contents

1.	Genesis 2.18-23	Man Gave Names to All the Animals	4
2.	Song of Songs 2.3-17	Eyes Wide Open I	8
3.	Song of Songs 6.13-7.10	Eyes Wide Open II	12
4.	Genesis 3.1-11	Temptation and Sin	16
5.	Genesis 3.1-13	Shame and Sinful Strategies	20
6.	Genesis 3.11-24	Judgment	24

# Study 1

# Genesis 2.18-23

Prayer week 4

## Man Gave Names To All The Animals

### READ

Love the Lord Your God with all your Mind



**Genesis 2:18-25** <sup>18</sup>The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." <sup>19</sup>Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup>So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. <sup>21</sup>So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. <sup>22</sup>Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup>The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." <sup>24</sup>For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. <sup>25</sup>The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

### Big Idea

*What we need to grab a hold of is that we have been saved to do what God has called us to do - we can be enthusiastic about that.*

### Getting Started

Do you know what your name means? Share the meaning of your names in the group.

### Naming in the Bible

Names in the Bible often have great significance. Look at these two examples one from the OT and one from the New Testament—what is the significance of the renaming?

Prayer week 5

Prayer week 6

## Prayer week 1

1. Jacob to Israel Genesis 32.22-32

2. Simon to Peter Matthew 16.13-20

3. In the Creation account of Genesis 1 God names what he has created. In Genesis 2 he gives Adam the responsibility to name the animals. What do you think is going on here?

## Prayer week 2

4. In a fallen world naming is still powerful. Why is the taunt, Sticks and stones may break my bone, but names will never hurt me, so empty?

5. Describe a time when someone named you in a negative way? Share it with the group.

6. Describe a time when someone named you well?

7. If you are a Christian how does God name you?

8. What name will you choose to be called by?

## Prayer week 3

# MEDITATE

Love the Lord Your God with all your Heart

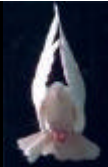


This week spend some time this week memorising Ephesians 5 .1

**Ephesians 5.1** Be imitators of God,  
therefore, as dearly loved children

# PRAY

Love the Lord Your God with all your Soul



Below write a Prayer thanking the Lord for your new name.

# LIVE

Love the Lord Your God with all your Strength



This week reflect on how we constantly try and avoid the consequences of our actions.

# MEDITATE

Love the Lord Your God with all your Heart

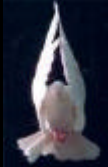


This week spend some time this week memorising 1 John 1:8-9

**1 John 1:8-9** <sup>8</sup> If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

# PRAY

Love the Lord Your God with all your Soul



Below write a Prayer thanking thanking the Lord for his forgiveness.

# LIVE

Love the Lord Your God with all your Strength



How can you 'name' the people you share your life with well?

# Study 2      Song of Songs 3.3-17

## Eyes Wide Open I

### READ

Love the Lord Your God with all your Mind



**Song of Songs 2:3-17** <sup>3</sup> Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest is my lover among the young men. I delight to sit in his shade, and his fruit is sweet to my taste. <sup>4</sup> He has taken me to the banquet hall, and his banner over me is love. <sup>5</sup> Strengthen me with raisins, refresh me with apples, for I am faint with love. <sup>6</sup> His left arm is under my head, and his right arm embraces me. <sup>7</sup> Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you by the gazelles and by the does of the field: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires. <sup>8</sup> Listen! My lover! Look! Here he comes, leaping across the mountains, bounding over the hills. <sup>9</sup> My lover is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look! There he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, peering through the lattice. <sup>10</sup> My lover spoke and said to me, "Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come with me. <sup>11</sup> See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. <sup>12</sup> Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land. <sup>13</sup> The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance. Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me." <sup>14</sup> My dove in the clefts of the rock, in the hiding places on the mountainside, show me your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely. <sup>15</sup> Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom. <sup>16</sup> My lover is mine and I am his; he browses among the lilies. <sup>17</sup> Until the day breaks and the shadows flee, turn, my lover, and be like a gazelle or like a young stag on the rugged hills.

### Big Idea

Marriage, even after the fall, is still a place where we can experience 'nakedness without shame' but it will always be risky and never without hassles.

1. When you read the love song above what are some of your first impressions?

1. Identify the relationship and the aspect of being that is impacted by judgement for the serpent?

2. Identify the relationship and the aspect of being that is impacted by judgement for the woman?

3. Identify the relationship and the aspect of being that is impacted by judgement for the man?

The 'desire' in v16 is not a good desire cf Gen.4.7. Verse 16 paints a picture of marriage as a power struggle between the husband and the wife. This does not affirm a husband ruling over his wife but neither does it admit, as some want to affirm, that order in marriage is a consequence of the fall. In verse 17 the man is rebuked for having listened to his wife—he failed to lead. Jesus and the church give us the models of mutual submission between husband and wife Ephesians 5.

4. Where does the Lord show grace?

5. How accurately does this picture of a world under judgement, yet still experiencing grace, portray the world we live in?



# Study 6      Genesis 3.11-24

## Judgement

### READ

Love the Lord Your God with all your Mind



**Genesis 3:11-24** <sup>11</sup> And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" <sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman you put here with me-- she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." <sup>14</sup> So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." <sup>16</sup> To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." <sup>17</sup> To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. <sup>18</sup> It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return." <sup>20</sup> Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. <sup>21</sup> The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. <sup>22</sup> And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." <sup>23</sup> So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. <sup>24</sup> After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

### Big Idea

Sin has consequences, even when there is grace. For Adam, Eve and the Serpent there are consequences for rebellion. Each punishment affects a relationship and an aspect of their being.

2. How is this song a demonstration of 'nakedness without shame'?

3. What is the difference between just sex and sexual intimacy?

4. How does **Genesis 4:1** Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, from the New King James Version underline the idea of sexual intimacy?

5. Can you identify places in the song where love is difficult or frustrating?

6. In Genesis and the Song of Songs this nakedness without shame is experienced in an exclusive relationship—marriage. What is it about marriage that can provide a context for intimacy to take place?

7. Of course just because people are married and have sex doesn't mean that they are experiencing 'nakedness without shame'. What can be a stumbling block to this happening?

# MEDITATE

Love the Lord Your God with all your Heart



This week spend some time this week memorising Genesis 2.25

**Genesis 2.25** <sup>25</sup> The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

# PRAY

Love the Lord Your God with all your Soul



Below write a Prayer thanking the Lord that he made you to know and to be known.

# LIVE

Love the Lord Your God with all your Strength



This week reflect on conversations and interactions at home and work that could be indicators of you operating out of something other than a trust in God.

# MEDITATE

Love the Lord Your God with all your Heart

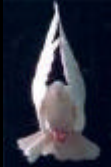


This week spend some time this week memorising **Philippians 3:7**

**Philippians 3:7** <sup>7</sup> But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

# PRAY

Love the Lord Your God with all your Soul



Below write a Prayer confessing your sinful strategies—they ways you've learnt to survive without God.

# LIVE

Love the Lord Your God with all your Strength



How can you share something of who you are with someone you work with or live with and invite them to share something of who they are?

# Study 3 Song of Songs 6.13-7.10

## Eyes Wide Open II

### READ

Love the Lord Your God with all your Mind



**Song of Songs 6:13 - 7:10** <sup>3</sup> Come back, come back, O Shulammitte; come back, come back, that we may gaze on you! Why would you gaze on the Shulammitte as on the dance of Mahanaim? **7:1** How beautiful your sandaled feet, O prince's daughter! Your graceful legs are like jewels, the work of a craftsman's hands. <sup>2</sup> Your navel is a rounded goblet that never lacks blended wine. Your waist is a mound of wheat encircled by lilies. <sup>3</sup> Your breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle. <sup>4</sup> Your neck is like an ivory tower. Your eyes are the pools of Heshbon by the gate of Bath Rabbim. Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon looking toward Damascus. <sup>5</sup> Your head crowns you like Mount Carmel. Your hair is like royal tapestry; the king is held captive by its tresses. <sup>6</sup> How beautiful you are and how pleasing, O love, with your delights! <sup>7</sup> Your stature is like that of the palm, and your breasts like clusters of fruit. <sup>8</sup> I said, "I will climb the palm tree; I will take hold of its fruit." May your breasts be like the clusters of the vine, the fragrance of your breath like apples, <sup>9</sup> and your mouth like the best wine. May the wine go straight to my lover, flowing gently over lips and teeth. <sup>10</sup> I belong to my lover, and his desire is for me.

### Big Idea

This passage invites us into something like Paradise regained, something of a return to 'nakedness without shame'. Christians should be modest about sex but never prudish. We have a text that delights in the sexual intimacy available in marriage.

1. The section from 7.1-6 is a slow consideration of the beauty of the Shulammitte. What is the movement in this part of the song?

1. How much more naked were Adam and Eve after they sinned?

2. In what way did Adam and Eve have something to hide?

3. Think about the sort of god the serpent tempted Eve to be like. Did they become like that god? How?

4. What two strategies did Adam and Eve employ to hide their sin?

Sinful strategies are a survival mechanism without faith or trust in God.

5. These are not the only ways that people use to protect themselves and hide their sin and vulnerability. What are some others?

6. Where do our sinful strategies get us?

7. What sinful strategies do you employ to get by?

# Study 5     Genesis 3.1-13

## Shame and Sinful Strategies

### READ

Love the Lord Your God with all your Mind



**Genesis 3:1-13** Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" <sup>4</sup> "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. <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> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. <sup>8</sup> Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." <sup>11</sup> And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" <sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman you put here with me— she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

### Big Idea

When we sin our first response is not repentance it is shame—to hide and justify our self, to be self-protective. Adam and Eve cover themselves with fig leaves and bushes and blaming others. If we are going to mature as God's people we need to reject our sinful strategies of self-justification and self-protection.

2. The lover doesn't just name the body parts –feet, legs, navel, waist, breasts, neck, eyes, nose, head and hair. What has the lover done and what does this require?

3. How is this section a little like the account of the creation of the earth in Genesis 1.1-31?

4. While the language is erotic it is not lewd or pornographic neither is it prudish. How does it strike the right note?

5. In v8 the imagery switches to fruit and the delight of the husband in the breasts of his wife. Does she find this demeaning?

6. How does the husband and the wife in their delight in each other's bodies refrain from treating the other just as an object of sex?

It is good to be reminded that sexual intimacy is not without its problems or frustrations and to be reminded that the Song of Song acknowledges this as part of the reality of marriage. Even the best marriage is only an approximation of 'nakedness without shame'. raise in Israel was shaped by the Psalms which enabled them by themselves and in corporate worship to express every aspect of life—the highs and the lows.

# MEDITATE

Love the Lord Your God with all your Heart



This week spend some time this week memorising Song of Songs 8.6-7

**Song of Solomon 8:6-7** <sup>6</sup> Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. <sup>7</sup> Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away. If one were to give all the wealth of his house for love, it would be utterly scorned.

# PRAY

Love the Lord Your God with all your Soul



Below write a Prayer thanking the Lord that he loves you with the love described in these verses.

# LIVE

Love the Lord Your God with all your Strength



Is there something in your life that needs redressing?

# MEDITATE

Love the Lord Your God with all your Heart



This week spend some time this week memorising 1 Corinthians 10.213

**1 Corinthians 10:13** <sup>13</sup> No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

# PRAY

Love the Lord Your God with all your Soul



Below write a Prayer asking the Lord to show you the way out of a temptation you are currently facing.

# LIVE

Love the Lord Your God with all your Strength



This week reflect on portrayals of love in the media and consider how they stack up against the Song of Songs.

# Study 4      Genesis 3.1-11

## Temptation and Sin

### READ

Love the Lord Your God with all your Mind



**Genesis 3:1-11** Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" <sup>4</sup> "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. <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> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. <sup>8</sup> Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." <sup>11</sup> And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

### Big Idea

Unpacking the real nature of Temptation and Sin (the reversal of God's good order) with a stop over at Luke 4 and the temptation of Jesus.

Temptation is all around us. When we reduce temptation to longings for chocolate or something equally as frivolous we have reduced our own lives in significance and importance. We are creatures made in the image of God for a purpose and the world the devil and at times our very selves conspire to divert us from that purpose and to destroy, if possible, the image of God in us.

The Fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil is not a fruit that will give you a conscience. It is a fruit that makes you the one who calls the shots, who determines what is good and evil.

1. Where is Adam in all of this?
2. Where did Adam fail?
3. The order of creation in chapter 2 of Genesis is God—man/woman— animals. What happens to that order in chapter 3?
4. How does the cunning serpent undermine Eve's confidence in God—list the steps?
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
5. What is ironic about what the serpent tempts the woman with?
6. In what way did the serpent tell the truth and in what way did he deceive?
7. What sort of image of God did the serpent paint for Eve?
8. Did we become like that god?