



**VERSUS**  
SERMON SERIES

CONNECT GROUP STUDY GUIDES



# ***Versus: Why?***

## WARM UP

- What is your favorite computer battle or strategy game?
- What cause have you supported in the past? How did you fight for it?
- Have you ever experienced fighting during childhood or adolescent years? What happened?

## WORD

*<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."*

Genesis 3:14,15  
(Read Genesis 3:1-15 for full context.)

## What?

Spiritual conflict began in the Garden of Eden when the devil, disguised as a serpent, tempted Adam and Eve to disobey God by eating the forbidden fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. With man and woman giving in to the temptation, sin created a huge gap between God and humanity. What can we learn from this story?

### 1. **The devil works to destroy the relationship of God and man.**

*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'?"*

Genesis 3:1

The serpent's question provoked the woman to doubt God's sovereignty and goodness. Adam and Eve rebelled against God by disobeying the single command He gave them. Sin, then, entered the picture and created a huge gap between God and mankind (Romans 5:12). What destroyed mankind's relationship with God?

### 2. **We must guard our hearts from the enemy's schemes.**

*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.*

Genesis 3:6

We must know that our enemy is scheming (1 Corinthians 2:11). He takes advantage of human weakness to lure us to give in to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. However, it is our choice whether to give in or not. From the story, whom did God punish? While the enemy provokes us to sin, can we blame him when we fall into temptation? Why not (1 Corinthians 10:13)?

**3. A Savior who will defeat the enemy was promised.**

*“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.”*

Genesis 3:15

Even from the beginning, God has already revealed His plan to defeat Satan and bring salvation to the world through His Son, Jesus Christ. His loving motivation is to restore mankind into a right relationship with Him (John 3:16). How can we be reconciled with God?

**So What?**

- What do you do when thoughts of accusation or temptation enter your mind?
- How can we avoid the schemes of the devil? Read 1 John 2:15-17.
- Do you believe that we share in the victory that Christ won through His death and resurrection (Colossians 2:13-15; Romans 16:19,20)?

**APPLICATION**

**Now What?**

- Are you facing temptation or accusation? Find a trusted friend who can stand with you in prayer and believe that God will help you overcome this.
- Are there areas in your life that are not aligned with God’s Word? Choose to repent, trust, and follow God from now on.
- Stand with someone you know who is facing hardship and encourage him or her to trust in God.

**PRAYER**

- Pray for God’s protection over your life, family, and Victory group members.
- Ask God for discernment, wisdom, and grace in resisting the enemy and fleeing from temptation.
- Claim and declare the Bible passages about the victory that we have in Christ (Proverbs 2:7; 1 John 4:4; 5:4,5; 1 Corinthians 15:57).