

### A Trick Question

#### read

Genesis 3:1-7

#### think

God had created all things and declared all things “good!” And what existed in the Garden of Eden is what is captured in the Hebrew word *shalom*. It indicates a state of existence where everything is the way it’s supposed to be. There is a harmony among everything in the creation because everything is perfect. There is no sin, no heartache, no disease, no death, no brokenness. It is a condition of universal flourishing. Nothing we can conceive of in our earthly minds could be better!

But the enemy of God, Satan himself, desired to undo *shalom* and bring disorder into God’s perfect order. This “crafty” being is a master of deception and trickery. The undoing of everything in the created order begins with Satan asking Eve this simple little question: “Did God really say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” With that question seeds of doubt were sown in the minds and hearts of our first parents. . . seeds that immediately took root and grew into the rebellion against God that has everything good undone.

I’ve lived long enough to know that our enemy still uses this tactic in our lives. As a follower of Jesus, I know that I must read and obey God’s will and way as revealed through His Son Jesus Christ, and in His written Word, the Bible. And when pursuing a life lived under the light of God’s Word threatens to undo the darkness Satan loves to spread, he sows seeds of doubt through that same question: “Did God really say. . . ?” And this is why we must engage in a relentless pursuit of knowing what God really has said in His Word.

#### apply

- What truth(s) from God’s Word have you on occasion doubted?
- What practices can help us hear God speak more clearly in our lives? And, what can we do to silence the voice of doubt and mistrust?
- The internet gives us access to so many faithful preachers of God’s Word. One of those faithful preachers I’ve come to love is Tim Keller. Do a YouTube search for “Tim Keller sermons” and choose one to listen to as a family.

#### pray

Heavenly Father, we thank you that in your great love for us you have spoken through the revelation of the Incarnate Word, Jesus Christ, and in your written Word, the Bible. Open our ears to hear you as you speak your will and way for our lives. Give us a rich ability to discern your truth from the enemy’s lies. Amen.

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