



# God's Response to Failure

Adapted from "Fruit of Failure" series by Rod Loy

Adam and Eve started life in a perfect world. Really, when you think about it, Adam and Eve had it made. They were the only people in the world. The crime rate was at zero. Unemployment? Unheard of. The economy? Everything was provided for them by God.

They lived in a beautiful garden, full of wonderful things to eat. And – it was more than just great scenery; they had a personal relationship with God. God created them for the express purpose of relationship with Him. They walked and talked with God in the beauty of His creation. How could they possibly mess that up?

Adam and Eve had one rule – not a list of rules or a book of rules – just one rule. That one rule had to do with the tree in the center of the garden – the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Adam and Eve were not

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allowed to eat fruit off that tree. They could do anything else they wished. They just had to avoid eating that fruit. Seems simple, doesn't it?

Satan came and tempted Adam and Eve. They had a direct word from God. They should have obeyed God. They should have resisted temptation. They should have ran or called out to God for help. Instead, Adam and Eve disobeyed God and failed. They failed miserably. And, their failure didn't just affect them, but all mankind. With their sin, Adam and Eve introduced sin, sickness, disease and evil into our world. The effects of their failure continue today.

Our failures are devastating. The cost of our sin and failure is high. We hurt others. We suffer from shame. We forfeit the blessings of God, but God does respond to our failure.

## **“COURAGE” Level Questions**

Adam and Eve lived in a perfect world in the Garden of Eden. Answer the following:

**C1:** What was the crime rate in the Garden of Eden?

**C2:** What was the unemployment rate in the Garden of Eden?

**C3:** What was the economy like in the Garden of Eden?

**C4:** Adam and Eve walked around and talked with God in the beauty of creation. In your words, how could they possibly mess that up?

**C5:** Describe a time in your life where you messed up and failed. What were your feelings? What areas of your life were affected?

## **“STRENGTH” Level Questions**

**S1:** When you fail at something, what thoughts go through your mind?

**S2:** What do you think God thinks about you when you fail?

**Exercise #1:** When we fail, God still seeks relationship with us. Read this verse and answer the following.

**Genesis 3:9 (ESV)**

**S3:** From this verse, what is God’s response when we fail?

**Exercise #2:** Read these verses and answer the following.

**Genesis 3:10–11 (ESV)**

**1 John 1:8–9 (ESV)**

**S4:** From these verses, what does God give to us when we fail?

**S5:** From the verses in Genesis, why does God ask those two questions?

**S6:** What is your view of God when you fail?

## **“ENDURANCE” Level Questions**

**Exercise #1:** God is a patient God. In Genesis 3:12-13 Adam does not respond correctly, so God gives Eve a chance. Read the verse and answer the following.

### **Genesis 3:12–13 (ESV)**

**E1:** What does God offer everyone who fails?

**Exercise #2:** Because He is 100% holy (completely without sin or evil), sin offends God. Read this verse and answer the following.

### **Genesis 3:14–15 (ESV)**

**E2:** From these verses, who does God get mad at when sin is involved?

**Exercise #3:** Read these verses and answer the following.

**Genesis 3:14–15 (ESV)**

**Genesis 3:23–24 (ESV).**

**E3:** From these verses, what does God allow?

**E4:** God allows me to suffer the consequences of sin. How does that fit in with the image of a loving God who comes to me and gives me another chance to make things right?