



**Series:** From Garden to Garden  
**Passage:** Genesis 1-3  
**Title:** The Garden of Decision  
**Speaker:** Pastor David Menard 3/22/2026

**Discussion Starter** – Have you ever used a screwdriver as a wood chisel, or prybar? Does it do an effective job? Is it good for the screwdriver? What could go wrong? How does understanding the purpose for a tool inform us about how it is effectively used?

### **Read Genesis 1:26-31**

1. Notice humans are created after everything else and given broad dominion over what was previously created. What does this reveal about God’s purpose for creation and the human’s role in it?
2. In what way were humans created in God’s image? (5 were given in the message)
  - a. How is a clear and unobstructed view of God necessary for us to reflect a full and clear image of God?
3. What was God’s commission to humans as their role in this new creation?
  - b. What does understanding this original creation and commissioning reveal to you about your purpose in life and place in God’s plan for you? How might an accurate understanding affect your daily choices?
4. This creation was “very good” but was it finished? What does this reveal to you about God’s purpose for humans from this point forward?

### **Read Genesis 2:8-9, 15-17**

5. Man was placed in Eden. How is the land beyond Eden described, (v 10-14)? How would you describe Eden? (Was it a safe zone, an incubator, a training place...) Do you think God had a plan for the land beyond Eden?
6. What limitation did God place on humans concerning life in Eden? What two benefits did Adam and Eve gain by this restrictive commandment?
  - c. Describe the benefits of being able to discern evil compared to the dangers of trying to define evil?

### **Genesis 3:1-13**

7. How did the serpent reframe disobedience to God in a way that would tempt humans?
  - d. How does fear of scarcity, (for love, power, respect...) lie at the root of destructive decisions (throughout history and in your own life), and corrupt the image of God we are meant to reflect?
  - e. How does your broken image of God relate to world-wide injustices? Does your restoration as a faithful image bearer of God serve to repair the world? Why or why not?
8. What was the reaction of Adam and Eve when they disobeyed God? What was God’s response?
9. What does God’s response to the failure of Adam and Eve reveal about His intention to continue to fulfill His purposes in creating humans?
10. If the human failure to be a faithful image bearer of God is the source of evil in the world, then what is the only solution? What steps does God take in that direction? (verse 3:15)