



## Chapter Two Leader Guide

*But the Lord God warned him, “You may freely eat fruit of every tree in the garden – except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.”*

*GENESIS 2:16-17 NLT*

### OVERVIEW:

**Tree of Life** - Comes from a mindset that we just need to fall in love with Jesus.

- Jesus has done all that is needed
- He already loves you
- We obey out of delight

**Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil** - Approaches God with the viewpoint that He is harsh, withholding, angry, and that we have to:

- Do more
- Do things to gain God’s approval
- Obey out of duty

After consuming the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, Adam and Eve hid, but God came looking for them. God is in love with sinful man and sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue people.

### Truths about the Fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil:

- The fruit is knowledge. It is not wrong to have knowledge, but we must evaluate our motives to obtain it. Are we wanting to exalt ourselves or gain God’s wisdom and understanding? Using godly wisdom allows us to become more like God as we emulate Him. Worldly wisdom leads us to sin, which alienates us from God.

- The fruit is deadly. The desire to know is in direct opposition to the desire to trust. Adam and Eve didn't die physically but died spiritually upon consuming the fruit.
- The fruit is consumed. Ideas are ingested in our minds and then sin is conceived. The first sin came about when Eve talked to Adam about it. Through a conversation, they consumed the idea and began to process it. This progression tells us that sin does not begin with the act, it begins in our minds.
- The fruit causes separation. God didn't separate Himself from Adam and Eve; instead, they hid from Him after consuming the fruit. God searched for them because He loved them. When we see His heart for us, we will run to Him instead of hiding from Him when we sin. We must get to the point where no matter what has happened in our lives, we take responsibility for our own lives. We can no longer blame anyone else for the quality of our relationship with God.

The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil produces shame and victimization. Shame causes us to separate ourselves from God. Victimization causes us to blame others, displacing our responsibility for the condition of our lives and souls.

### **DISCUSSION GUIDE:**

Application from Chapter 1: Ask participants to share ways that they approached God throughout the previous week.

- How have I used knowledge of God as a basis in my relationship with God?
- What steps can I take to remove the barrier of shame from my life?
- In what areas can I start to take responsibility rather than blame?

### **APPLICATION:**

The lesson for chapter 3 goes more in depth on the Tree of Life. Encourage your participants to pay attention over the next week to how they might be acting and reacting based on Tree of Life thinking and ask them to come prepared to share some examples next week.

### **PRAYER FOCUS:**

- Pray that any incorrect views of God will be revealed to your participants and that they will be able to see Him as a loving Father who is searching for them.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas in which participants have operated out of shame and victimization.