



## Part One: Did God Really Say? // Carey Nieuwhof // September 13, 2020

Who can you trust, really? In Genesis 3, we learn that distrust is something that goes right back to the beginning of humankind's relationship with God. Whether you believe that God has your best interests in mind or that his motives aren't good makes a big difference. If God's motives are good, you can trust him fully. If they're not, it's a whole other story.

**Scripture:** [Genesis 3:1-13](#) NLT, [Matthew 26:36-46](#) NLT

**Bottom Line:** If you assume God's motives are bad, you'll never trust him. If you assume God's motives are good, you will.

### Getting Started:

1. What from Carey's message stood out to you, confused you, challenged you, or encouraged you?

### Jumping In:

2. Almost everyone has an idea of who God is (or isn't) when they were growing up. What was yours? Did you assume God was good, or were you afraid of him?
3. Carey asked, 'Why do you have such a hard time trusting God?' Share your honest reaction to that question.

### Discuss:

4. Read [Genesis 3:1-13](#). We'll come back to this passage every week during this series.
5. What surprises you from this passage? What do you suppose you would have done and why? What part of your life do you see in the passage?
6. What do you think the knowledge of God without the wisdom or power of God has produced in your life? Share some examples with your group.
7. One of our values at Connexus is to choose trust, to believe the best about others. Recall a time when someone extended trust to you and it made a

difference in your life. Has there been a time when you extended trust to another person? What was the result?

8. What difference would it make in your relationship with God if you made trust your default posture?
9. What difference would choosing trust make in your closest relationships with people?
10. Read [Matthew 26: 36-46](#). Compare and contrast Jesus' trust in God as shown in Matthew, with Adam and Eve's trust in God in [Genesis 3:1-13](#). One seemed easy upfront but hard in the end. Another was extremely hard up front but results in life in the end. What can you learn from these two very different responses?

### **Moving Forward:**

It's hard to trust people because we can't always tell their intentions. What if you decided to choose trust when it comes to God? To believe the best, not to assume the worst?

This week, when it comes to God, choose to trust him. That will help you defeat doubt and distortion. Pray specifically for each other in this regard.

### **Changing Your Mind:**

*One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?" (Genesis 3:1)*