



Lesson 3

Read Genesis 3:14-24

1. We have quickly moved from the lofty declarations that creation is 'good,' humans made in the image of God are 'very good,' and humans living without shame or fear to this: deceit, rebellion, and shame. Imagine reading these verses for the first time: what are some of the surprising elements of these thirteen verses?
2. What is the essence of the message the serpent uses to tempt and deceive Eve?
3. The serpent twisted the Lord's commandments in Gen: 2:16-17. Eve says in verse 13 that, "The serpent deceived me and I ate it." What does it mean to be deceived and how does it feel?
4. Verse six says that Adam was with Eve. How does he fail his test given the Lord's commandment in Gen. 2:16-17?
5. What are some of the effects described in 3:14-21 of fall?
6. In verses 14–15 the Lord God curses the serpent and tells it that an offspring (or descendant or seed in different translations) of the woman will come to crush its head, even as the serpent will strike this offspring's heel. How is this good news for the world, now fallen into sin and death? How does this relate to Jesus?

Read Genesis 3:20–24

7. In which ways do we see Lord God's lovingkindness to Adam and Eve in these last verses of Genesis 3? How does this comfort you, or even challenge you?

Tower of Babel:

Read Genesis 11:1-9

8. The LORD commanded Noah “to multiply and fill the earth” (Gen 9:1,7), the same command he gave in the garden (Gen 1:28). How are the people in Shinar thumbing their noses at this command in verse 4?

9. What new technology had the people in Shinar developed? Where have you seen technology used for human flourishing? How can these same technical advancements be used for evil?

10. Why do the people decide to build a city and a tower? What are their motivations? In what ways, if any, is it like any of your motives for what you have done or are doing in life?

11. What two actions does the Lord take to stop the people from completing their plans? Is this punishment or a blessing, or both? How is this like the Lord’s actions when he expelled Adam and Eve from the garden? How is it different?

12. Discuss how much you agree or disagree with this statement: In light of human tendencies toward sin, it is foolish and unrealistic to strive toward world peace and harmony.

Read Genesis 11: 10-32

13. Genealogies in the Scriptures serve to show how God is working in and through the history of humanity. What do you find significant about this genealogy and the preceding verses (27-32)?

14. Babylon (Babel) is literally and symbolically a place of opposition to God throughout Scripture, the kingdom of the serpent that seeks to define good and evil according to its own eyes. Where or what is Babylon today? How can we recognize its evil?

15. How does the author emphasize that Sarai was barren in verse 30? Why is this point so important as we move into the story of Abraham?