

HUMANITY DISOBEYED GOD

CORE PASSAGE: GENESIS 3:1-7,15,21-24

CONTEXT

God created everything good: the sky, the land, the sea, the animals, and so forth. Then the writer of Genesis continued to recount in greater detail the creation of humanity. God formed Adam out of dust and placed him in the perfect garden of Eden. Adam was free to eat any fruit except from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Then God introduced into His creation Eve, who would help Adam fulfill God's purposes. Blameless, they were naked without shame. However, this changed after Satan came on the scene in the form of a serpent to deceive and manipulate.

KEY CONCEPT

Sin results in shame, separation, and death.

As you examine Genesis 3:1-7,15,21-24:

- Identify lies Satan might use today to make us question God and His goodness.
- Think about how our view of God impacts our approach to repentance of sin.



TIMELINE

The Eternal God Creates Humanity (Genesis 1:26–2:25)

1: God Created Adam

3: God Gave One Prohibition: Do Not Eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

2: God Planted a Garden in Eden for Adam to Work and Watch Over

4: God Created Eve to Correspond to and Be a Helper to Adam

SESSION STUDY: The Fall of Humanity and Its Consequences (Genesis 3)

Daily Readings

Day 1: Genesis 3:1-7

Day 4: Genesis 3:17-19

Day 2: Genesis 3:8-13

Day 5: Genesis 3:20-24

Day 3: Genesis 3:14-16

Day 6: Psalm 6



Scan this QR code to access this session's Scripture passages.

PERSONAL PREPARATION

GENESIS 3:1-7

SIN RESULTS IN SHAME.

Identify the questions and diversions presented by the serpent.

1 Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You can’t eat from any tree in the garden?’” **2** The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden.” **3** But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, “You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.” **4** “No! You will certainly not die,” the serpent said to the woman. **5** “In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” **6** The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. **7** Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

THEOLOGY CONNECTION

MAN: In the beginning, man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan, man transgressed the command of God and fell from his original innocence, whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin.

Key Concept: Sin results in shame, separation, and death.

The cunning serpent approached the woman with misdirection, raising a simple question about what God had prohibited. The question seemed harmless, but it caused the woman to focus on the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. In doing so, the serpent appealed to the woman's pride and introduced doubts. The serpent built upon those doubts, raising questions about God and His intentions. We can blame Satan here, but disobedience always involves a choice—a choice of faith. Eve's choice was to listen and continue the conversation with the serpent or trust God and focus on what the Lord had said. Often when we neglect our time in God's Word, it is so much easier to fall into sin, especially if we doubt or misrepresent His truth. That was where Eve found herself.

What lies might Satan use today to make us question God and His goodness?

The woman, enticed by the serpent and the desirability of the forbidden fruit, chose to eat it. She gave some to Adam, and he ate as well. In this one act, they demonstrated a lack of trust in God and His good character. They viewed God as a tyrant, failing to see His protective hand and caring heart for His creation. They trusted what they could see, believing themselves to be wiser than God. In doing

so, they brought upon themselves guilt, seen in the newfound shame they felt with being naked. They were enlightened but at the cost of their innocence. They needed to cover up what they had marred with their act of sin.

What protections might a person put in place to withstand temptations?

VOICES FROM CHURCH HISTORY

“Pride is the worst viper that is in the heart, the greatest disturber of the soul's peace and sweet communion with Christ; it was the first sin that ever was, and lies lowest in the foundation of Satan's whole building, and is the most difficultly rooted out, and is the most hidden, secret and deceitful of all lusts, and often creeps in, insensibly, into the midst of religion and sometimes under the disguise of humility.”¹

–Jonathan Edwards (1703–1758)

PERSONAL PREPARATION

GENESIS 3:15,21-24

SIN RESULTS IN SEPARATION AND DEATH.

Highlight words and phrases that point to God's grace and mercy.

15 I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel. . . . **21** The LORD God made clothing from skins for the man and his wife, and he clothed them. **22** The LORD God said, "Since the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil, he must not reach out, take from the tree of life, eat, and live forever." **23** So the LORD God sent him away from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. **24** He drove the man out and stationed the cherubim and the flaming, whirling sword east of the garden of Eden to guard the way to the tree of life.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Sin and death entered the world through the action of one man, Adam, but the grace of God resulting in righteousness and life for all who believe came through the one man, Jesus Christ (Romans 5:12-21).

Key Concept: Sin results in shame, separation, and death.

Confronting their rebellion, God declared that the serpent would move on its belly and eat dust (Genesis 3:14). Humanity would now be marked by experiences of pain and death, returning to the dust from which Adam was formed (vv. 16-19). And God also put hostility between the woman and the serpent and their respective offspring. Yet one offspring of the woman would take a hit from the serpent and simultaneously deal the crushing blow to the serpent (v. 15). This promise, often called the proto-evangelium—"the first gospel"—points ahead to the cross, where Jesus, in His sacrificial death, ultimately won the victory over Satan, sin, and death.

The redemption of humanity was God's plan before He spoke forth the first ray of light on the first day of creation. The apostle Peter declared that the perfect Lamb was chosen before creation (1 Peter 1:18-20). God had a plan in place prior to Adam and Eve's rebellion that included His Son's death, burial, and resurrection as the means of redeeming and restoring His good creation.

How would you describe a God who already had a plan in place for redeeming His creation?

The effort by the man and woman to cover their bodies with leaves fell short. So God clothed them with animal skins (Genesis 3:21), which involved the first sacrificial death to atone for their sin. God provided for Adam and Eve what they could not provide for themselves.

One more consequence was needed: the couple had to leave the garden and God's presence (vv. 22-23). In their new sinful state, Adam and Eve had earned death and separation from God. But in cutting off their access to the tree of life, God made possible their redemption from sin and death. With God, death can give way to new and eternal life.

Adam had failed to guard the garden from evil, so a new guard was required—cherubim, or holy angels (v. 24). And when God later gave instructions for the tabernacle, cherubim were woven into the veil that separated God's presence in the holy of holies from the people. But after Jesus offered Himself as the final sacrifice for our sin on the cross, the veil was torn (Matthew 27:51). God now invites us into His presence and eternal life through faith in the Son.

How does our view of God impact our approach to repentance of sin?



PERSONALITY PROFILERS

What three single-word descriptors would you use to identify each of the following?

SERPENT

EVE

ADAM

GOD

How did the personality of each character impact the interactions that took place in Genesis 3?



Key Concept: Sin results in shame, separation, and death.



HEAD

What factors influence your view of sin and its results? How can you adjust your view of sin based on Genesis 3?

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

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Paraphrase Psalm 6. Give attention to verse 4, comparing different translations. Thank God for His faithful love, expressing gratitude for His providing deliverance through His Son. Ask God to help you live in light of His deliverance through faith in Jesus.



HEART

What keeps you from grieving sin in our world? How does grieving over sin reflect our love for others?

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



HANDS

How can you encourage others in your group to resist and flee temptation? How can you hold out the gospel to any person who falls into sin?



THE DOCTRINE OF SCRIPTURE

By David McLemore

God wrote a book and gave it to us. The sheer wonder of that statement should daily fill our hearts with thanksgiving. We call this book *The Holy Bible*, and because it is God's book, it is, by virtue of its author, the greatest book ever written. It is more precious than gold (Psalm 19:10), a lamp to our feet (119:105), our comfort in affliction (119:50), and more necessary for us than bread alone (Matthew 4:4).

GOD'S WORDS

That God would speak at all to sinful man is a grace beyond words. Yes, the Bible was written with human hands, but these are God's words, inspired by the Holy Spirit who carried the human authors along (2 Peter 1:21). Collected into sixty-six books written by dozens of authors over more than 1,500 years in three different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek) and several genres, the Word of God is big, complex, and magnificent. But behind, through, and in it all is the authoritative voice of the one true God.

This divine authorship ensures that we can trust the Bible's inerrancy. God tells the truth. He cannot lie (Numbers 23:19, Titus 1:2, Hebrews 6:18). The Bible is a

trustworthy book that we can build a whole life upon because behind it stands a trustworthy God. As the apostle Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 3:16, "All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness."

SUFFICIENT WORDS

Of course, the Bible doesn't tell us all we wish we knew, but it does tell us everything we need to know. It is complete and sufficient in its revelation. God's redemptive plan is explained such that a child can understand yet no scholar can fully reach the end of its wonders.

The lessons of Scripture begin, aptly, "in the beginning" of Genesis. God reveals who He is, who our parents are, how our world fell into its current state of sin and rebellion, and prepares us for the gospel of Jesus Christ to come. These first foundational chapters set the stage for the unfolding of the rest of the Scriptures, introducing some major themes that serve to orient us in our world and introduce us to God's work in it.

- Genesis 1 explains the grace of God's creation. As His crown of creation, He made man and woman in His image.

- Genesis 2 introduces the grace of marriage. Adam and Eve’s marriage, as with every marriage thereafter, serves as a pointer to the kind of relationship God has with His people (Ephesians 5:22-33).
- Genesis 3 describes the tragedy of sin and the consequent death born through rebellion against God—the first bad news in the Bible. But we also get the first good news of the gospel—that a Savior will come to crush the head of the serpent (Genesis 3:15).
- Genesis 4 tells of the first physical death, born of a jealous heart among brothers. Cain kills his brother Abel, beginning the human cry for justice.
- Genesis 5 reveals the effect of the fall upon generations. From Adam to Noah we see the grace of human expansion along with the sad refrain “and he died.”
- Genesis 6 highlights the increasing wickedness of man. God will judge the world, yet grace still abounds as God instructs Noah to build an ark for the salvation of his family.
- Genesis 7 shows us that God takes sin seriously. The flood covers the earth and all but those in the ark die.
- Genesis 8 reveals the grace of God’s covenant whereby God promises mercy though man deserves only judgment.
- Genesis 9 confirms the covenant as God hangs His battle bow in the sky to remind us that His grace and mercy will never fail (Genesis 9:13).
- Genesis 10 details how man expands in the world as God commanded, and the people groups multiply, preparing for the glorious diversity of God’s kingdom to come (Revelation 7:9).
- Genesis 11, however, reveals man’s expansion as a forced obedience. Humanity is proud; they build a tower to reach God. Yet God thwarts their plans, changes their language, and separates them from one another. Not until Pentecost will the nations come together once again (Acts 2:1-4).
- In Genesis 12, the story funnels down from many nations to one man, Abram, and his family through whom God covenants to bless the world. From Abram will come the Savior Jesus, in whom all may find salvation from sin.

SAVING WORDS

From chapter to chapter, it becomes clear that the Savior Jesus is the center of the story. It is to Him the Old Testament points and in whom the New Testament rejoices. Every story either whispers His name or shouts it from the rooftops. He is the central point and focus of every part of the Bible’s narrative, the One on whom the spotlight shines the brightest.

From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible is God’s perfect, inerrant, beautiful, grace-filled word about His Son, Jesus, in whom the offer of salvation stands open for any and all who will believe.

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