

Bible Study Guide

Fear and Fig Leaves

Text: Genesis 3:1-21 (read)

Bible Study Focus: One of the initial byproducts of sin was fear. Fear immediately created distance between mankind and God. In this Study, we will focus on how fear led mankind away from God and against themselves. We will also observe how God presented a prophetic representation of the work of salvation as the ultimate answer for sin and man's disobedience.



• The Fear (Genesis 3:10)

- He (Adam) answered, “I **heard** you in the garden, and I was **afraid** because I was **naked**; so I **hid**.”
 - I heard you – a **recognition** of God's presence.
 - I was afraid – fear was generated by moving outside of the will of God.
 - Fear – a **distressing** emotion aroused by impending danger, evil, pain, etc., whether the threat is real or **imagined**;
 - I was naked – this “new” knowledge presented a new feeling of **shame**. There were always naked; sin has the tendency to take something that is beautiful and **twists** it into something shameful.
 - I hid – to **conceal** from sight; to prevent from being seen or **discovered**; this has become the “new” and “natural” response of mankind towards the Divine.

Question: In what ways do people today “hide” from God?

• The Falsehood (Genesis 3:12)

- The blame game begins:
 - The man blames the **woman** & **God** (verse 12) - *12 The man said, “The **woman** you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”*
 - The woman blames the **serpent** (verse 13) - *The woman said, “The serpent **deceived** me, and I ate.”*

Question: What are some additional observations that you can come up with regarding the impact of sin, fear, and relationships?

- **The Forgiveness (Genesis 3:21)**

- (verse 21) – The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.
 - Fig leaf undergarments are unacceptable.

Question: What “fig leaves” do people use today to cover sin (shame)?

- For a covering to be made, something had to **die**. Adam and Eve witnessed the death of an animal so that they can be covered. Nature witnessed the death of an animal so that man can be covered.
- Covering is important:
 - **Romans 4:7,8** – Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven, and whose sins have been covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account.
 - The Apostle Paul quotes: **Psalm 32:1** – “How **blessed** is he whose wrongdoing is forgiven, whose sin is covered!”
 - It is a blessing for the Lord to cover you and your sin.
 - **Blessing** – *esher* – to make **progress**; to advance
- Covering comes with a **price** – something or someone must die (blood must be **shed**) in order to provide a covering or **solution** for our sin and shame.

- **Matthew 26:26-28** – ²⁶Now while they were eating, Jesus took *some* bread, and ^[k]after a blessing, He broke *it* and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.” ²⁷And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave *it* to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸for this is My blood of the covenant, which is being **poured** out for many for forgiveness of sins.
- **Ephesians 1:7,8** - ⁷In Him we have redemption through His **blood**, the forgiveness of our wrongdoings, according to the riches of His grace⁸ which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight
- **1 John 1:6,7** – ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with Him and *yet* walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; ⁷but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son **cleanses** us from all sin.