

LESSON 2 | THE BEGINNINGS

WEEK 2: DAY 1



“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.”
- John 1:1-3

This week you will be building on the memory verse you learned last week. Last week you learned John 1:1. This week, you’ll have the chance to add John 1:2-3 to it. These three verses form a powerful reminder of Jesus as both the messenger of God’s love and the embodiment of the message itself.

Today, memorize John 1:2-3.

If you’ve never attempted to memorize a verse, there are a lot of ways to do it. One of the most effective is the 5 – 5 – 5 method. Try it and see if it works for you.

- **FIRST**, read the verses five times. On the last couple of times, read it slowly and out loud, if possible. Focus on the words.
- **NEXT**, write the verses five times. Some people find it helpful to say the words out loud as you write them. On the last few times, see if you can write the verses without looking at them.
- **FINALLY**, see if you can say the verses aloud five times without looking at your Bible or the page on which you’ve written the verses. (Even if it takes more than five times, stick with it until you can.)

Knowing God’s Word is a powerful tool in your relationship with Him. Give this a try today!

LESSON 2 | THE BEGINNINGS

WEEK 2: DAY 2

THE THREAD

DISCOVERING THE THREAD OF THE GOSPEL THROUGH THE BIG-PICTURE STORY OF THE BIBLE

“So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.” - Genesis 2:3

Do you often find yourself with nothing to do, constantly wondering what to do with all your free time? If you're like most students, you probably answered, “Uh, what free time? Do people actually have free time?!”. Most of us are over-committed, stressed out, and worn out. School, extra-curricular activities, family, friends, church, maybe even a job . . . All of these commitments take a big toll on your life.

Take a moment and read Genesis 2:3 above.

It's a short verse, but it communicates so much. First, it signifies that God finished the amazing work of creating the world. He had acted powerfully to craft all things as He saw fit. And after all that, He was done. Second, God made the day holy out of reverence for the work He had done. The word holy means that it was (and still is) special. Different. Set apart. What makes it different? That's the third point. It was different because it was a day of rest. A day when work stopped to honor the previous days of vigorous work.

By making the seventh day different, God honored the idea of rest. He shows us that rest is something to be valued. Do you need rest in your life? Remember, God made you in His image. That means you have the calling to rest, as He did.

Something To Think About . . .

- What can you do this week to carve out moments of peace? How can you use those moments to reflect on God and on the many blessings He's given you?
- Don't overlook it. It's important. What will you do to make this change?

LESSON 2 | THE BEGINNINGS

WEEK 2: DAY 3



“Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?” - Genesis 3:1

Is there anything worse than being lied to? Few things hurt as badly as finding out someone has twisted the truth, especially if it's somebody you know. When you find out, you go through a range of emotions. You might be angry, embarrassed, or sad. You might feel ashamed for getting taken advantage of. Lies can destroy relationships, sometimes permanently.

Read Genesis 3:1-5.

This passage represents the beginning of the end in the perfect harmony that existed in the Garden of Eden. God had made Adam and Eve, and He gave them everything they needed to live a perfect, happy life. The only thing they were not allowed to do was eat from this one specific tree, the tree of the “knowledge of good and evil” (Gen. 2:17). That's it. And yet, what we see here is the serpent, who represents Satan, twisting God's words.

He uses his crafty nature to manipulate Eve's words and emotions. He knew what God had actually said. But instead of upholding the Word of God, he twisted it and set a trap to try and get Eve to go against God. And it ultimately worked.

In John 8:44, Satan is called the father of lies. He still lies to us today. Humans often get caught up in these lies, spreading them rapidly in how they walk, talk, and act. Think about some lies you get told daily by the culture around you. Social media tells you that you are better or worse than other people. Music may tell you that only love, money, or popularity will make you feel whole. News apps may convince you that everything is only getting worse and that there is no hope. And they all stand to come in between you and the Lord.

Something To Think About . . .

- Never forget how much God loves you, how badly He wants to know you, and that you're a vital part of His plan to bring peace to the world. Pray to God today and ask Him to remind you about His provision and care. You don't have to believe the lies anymore- you know the One who is true!

LESSON 2 | THE BEGINNINGS

WEEK 2: DAY 4

THE THREAD

DISCOVERING THE THREAD OF THE GOSPEL THROUGH THE BIG-PICTURE STORY OF THE BIBLE

“So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.” – Genesis 3:6

Read Genesis 3:6–7.

Do you ever wonder what you would have done in Adam and Eve’s shoes? Think about it: that one sin gave birth to death, and war, and disease, and poverty, and so on . . . All because Adam and Eve couldn’t follow one simple rule. God warned Adam and Eve that eating from the tree would have unbearable consequences, and yet they both disregarded His words.

Because of this, all humanity since Adam and Eve have been born with this same need for control. It’s as though it is written in our DNA. We all want to live in a way that feels right to us, but if that doesn’t match God’s Word... then we end up rejecting God and His wisdom. Even in the most minor of cases, we tend to choose ourselves over God. We walk through life forgetting that when God gives us His rules for living, it is to keep us from harm and evil. All sin (including the very first one committed by Adam and Eve) is rooted in us rejecting God and living as though we know better.

Our hearts are bent toward sin. No matter how good we are at our best, there is darkness in our hearts that desires to be number one. But despite this, God still loves us and wants to bring us into His eternal Kingdom. In fact, He loves us so much that He sent His Son to die in our place so that we could enjoy a restored and renewed relationship with Him for eternity (John 3:16–17).

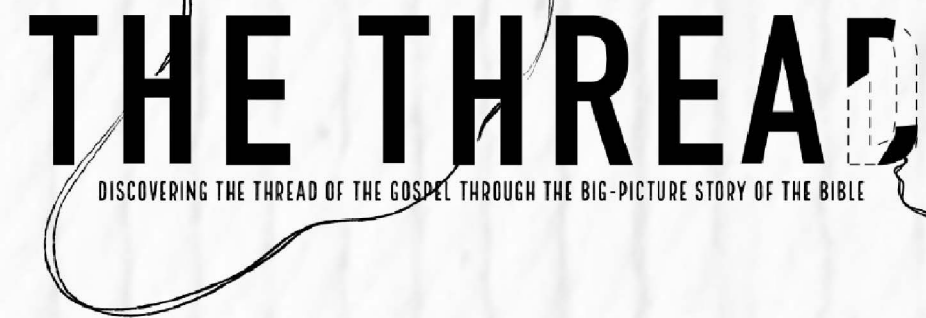
Adam and Eve planted the seeds of sin in all people’s hearts. But God provided us a way to be free from the penalty of sin in Jesus Christ.

Something To Think About . . .

- How aware are you of your sin? Do you feel convicted when you have sinned against God? Or has it just become a part of your life?
- When was the last time you confessed your sins to God and thanked Him for His forgiveness?

LESSON 2 | THE BEGINNINGS

WEEK 2: DAY 5



“And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool[c] of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.” - Genesis 3:8

Here’s a slightly uncomfortable question: How do you act when you’ve gotten caught doing something you know you shouldn’t? You may get defensive or embarrassed... or you may even get out of the room as fast as possible! Ultimately, guilt is at the heart of your response. Guilt is a complex emotion. It’s a feeling based on unmet expectations, isn’t it? It comes from knowing that you were supposed to do one thing (the right thing) but instead did something else (the wrong thing).

Read Genesis 3:8-12.

Up to this point in the creation narrative, God and humanity interacted in an environment that was pure and untainted with sin. Then sin (rejection of God) entered the equation. Look at the results: Adam and Eve felt so ashamed that they hid from God, their creator! This is the barrier that sin created between God and people. When faced with a perfect God, Adam and Eve’s sin sent them scurrying for a hiding place.

We know what shame and guilt feel like. We’ve all experienced it. The most beautiful thing about God’s plan is that He sent Jesus to take away the shame and guilt of our sins once and for all. Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sin. When we are saved through faith, the guilt of our sin is wiped away. Because of Christ, and only because of Christ, we can relate to God without the separation sin causes. We don’t have to hide from God anymore!

Something To Think About . . .

- Guilt does not have to be something that creates a wall between you and God. Part of the human experience is that you are going to make mistakes, and occasionally, you will make bad decisions. Guilt and regret are natural feelings that come after these events. But God has offered us forgiveness in Jesus Christ so that we don’t have to live in that guilt long term. If you’re having trouble accepting God’s forgiveness, go to Him in prayer. Ask God to help you feel the freedom that comes with His grace and mercy.