

Big Idea: Brokenness isn't the end of our story.

Primary Scripture: Genesis 3:1-24

Supporting Scripture: Proverbs 14:12; Isaiah 59:2; Romans 5:18-19

CAPTURE (Why should students pay attention to and care about your message?)

- I think it's safe to say that our phones might actually know us better than we know ourselves.
- All you have to do is watch one video about something, and suddenly your entire feed changes.
- One click leads to another and before you know it, it's 2 a.m. and you're three hours deep watching a stranger explain to you how to raise domesticated capybaras, and wouldn't you know it, they start providing detailed instructions about what kind of pasta and what kind of cheese capybaras prefer... and yes, it's obviously elbow macaroni with freshly grated parmesan.
 - You didn't plan this or wake up that day thinking, "Today, I will become an expert on the feeding habits of the world's largest living rodents."
 - But here you are. Fully invested.
 - And the scary part is you didn't even realize it was happening!
- One choice and your whole world tilts in a direction you never intended to go.
- Also, the choices we have while communicating with others can have real, lasting consequences.
 - Maybe you chose to share gossip about someone in a group chat.
 - Or maybe you were angry, and you chose to publicly post something mean about someone else.
 - Or maybe you sent a message tearing someone down, because you were hurt and you wanted them to hurt, too.
- For a second, it feels pretty good, but reality hits pretty quick when you see those three dots.
 - Someone's typing—and you realize not only has someone just read what you typed, but now they're responding.
 - At this point, there is no *undo* button.
 - Sure, maybe you can delete the message, but there's no way for them to unsee it. No reset.

- In that moment, you realize: **one choice just changed everything.**
- We're in week two of our series called ***The Sacred Timeline***
- We're talking about God's big, overarching story.
- One choice is about to change everything in a way that still impacts our lives on a daily basis today.

SCRIPTURE (What does God's Word say?)

- Things are quickly about to go from “very good” to “very broken.”

¹ *The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. 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 – NLT)*

- The snake asked a question, and as we'll see in just a second, Eve is going to answer that question.
- What we know is this: **this conversation is important.**
- There were probably thousands (or even millions) of conversations that happened in the Garden—but this is one of the few that we get to listen in on.

² *“Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,” the woman replied. ³ “It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, ‘You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.’” (Genesis 3:2-3 – NLT)*

- Eve seems pretty clear on the rules.
 - Eat whatever you want, just don't eat the fruit from the tree in the middle of the Garden because that will lead to death.

⁴ *“You won't die!” the serpent replied to the woman. ⁵ “God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.” (Genesis 3:4-5 – NLT)*

- The serpent knows that Eve has everything she could ever want—except one thing.
- Until this point, humanity is literally the greatest of all that God had created, but the serpent was offering Eve the chance to be on the same level as God.
- Eve took the bait.

⁶ *The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. (Genesis 3:6 – NLT)*

- Eve's husband, Adam, was right there **the entire time**.
- Throughout history, Eve has gotten a lot of blame for eating the fruit, but the Bible doesn't give Adam much room to pretend like he didn't know what was going on.

⁷ *At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. (Genesis 3:7 – NLT)*

- They wanted knowledge, but what they got was shame.
- They tried to hide their mistake, but it just didn't work.
- Before Adam and Eve ate the fruit, God would just show up, hang out with them and they'd *walk* and *talk* and *laugh together*.
- This time, when they heard God coming, they hid.

⁹ *Then the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"* ¹⁰ *He replied, "I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked."* ¹¹ *"Who told you that you were naked?" the Lord God asked. "Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?" (Genesis 3:9-11 – NLT)*

- Even though God must have been heartbroken, He still gave Adam and Eve a chance to own up to their mistake.
- Instead, Adam did what most of us have done when we've gotten caught doing something that wasn't right.

¹² *The man replied, "It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it." (Genesis 3:12 – NLT)*

- After this, Eve blamed the serpent, and **nobody** owned the choices they made.
- God spells out the consequences for everyone involved.
 - The serpent is cursed.
 - Eve will face pain in childbirth and a broken relationship dynamic with her husband.
 - Adam will struggle to grow food from the ground.

²³ So the Lord God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made. ²⁴ After sending them out, the Lord God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life. (**Genesis 3:23-24 – NLT**)

- Adam and Eve were banished from the garden, never to return.
- Their relationship with God was broken in a way that Adam and Eve couldn't repair—all because of one decision.

INSIGHTS (What might this Scripture mean?)

1. Sin promises more than it delivers.

- Notice the serpent didn't say, *"This will ruin you."*
- Instead, the promise it made was, *"This will make you like God."*
- Adam and Eve just couldn't pass up the opportunity to have more knowledge, more power, and more control.
- These are the same false promises that sin makes today.
- If we don't keep our guard up, they're the same promises that we're just as likely to fall for.
 - If you just have this experience, ***you'll finally be happy.***
 - If you just get to this place, ***you'll finally be respected.***
 - If you just cross this line, ***you'll finally get what you want.***
- We've all felt that temptation, but the problem is that temptation is a **liar**.
- It overpromises and underdelivers. **Every. Single. Time.**

¹² There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death. (**Proverbs 14:12 – NLT**)

- Sin might look like a good idea, but it **never** delivers on its promises, and it **never** leaves things better than it found them.

2. Sin breaks something we can't fix.

- When Adam and Eve disobeyed, they didn't just **bend** a rule. They instantly **broke** their relationship with God—and couldn't fix it.
- Sin doesn't just make life a little more difficult. It separates us from the One who made us.

- Even in our own lives, we see regrets we can't shake, wounds that don't heal, and patterns we can't seem to break.

² It's your sins that have cut you off from God. (Isaiah 59:2 – NLT)

- Sin still separates us from God.
- Sin makes our separation from God impossible to fix on our own.

3. God's rescue plan started right away.

- God would have been justified just walking away saying, "You made your choice. Live with it." But thankfully, that's just not who He is.
- God spends the rest of the Old Testament rebuilding His relationship with humanity.
- That plan all came together when God sent His only Son, Jesus, to bridge the gap between a Holy God and a sinful people.

¹⁸ Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. ¹⁹ Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous. (Romans 5:18-19 – NLT)

- Through Jesus, God's already made a way to restore what was broken all the way back at the beginning.
- Through Him, we're given the ability to live in a restored relationship with God Today.
- Not only has Jesus saved us today, but He has also promised that one day, He will wipe out sin, death, and brokenness **for good**.

ACTION (How could we live this out?)

1. Call out sin's lies.

- This week, pay attention to the moments when you feel pulled toward something you know isn't God's best for you.
- When that happens, pause and ask yourself two questions:
 - What is this promising me?
 - Is that promise actually true?
- You'll probably be able to answer the first one pretty quickly.
- The promises are almost endless, but are they true?

- When it comes to sin, the answer is **absolutely not**.
- Not only will sin not be able to deliver on its promises, but you'll start to see that sin's promises always come with a hidden cost.

2. Stop hiding and start talking.

- This week, take a few minutes each day to talk to God honestly, telling Him what's really going on.
- If there's something specific you've been trying to hide or fix on your own, tell God exactly what's happening and that you need His help.
- If you're really serious about breaking a pattern of sin in your life, tell a trusted adult (like a parent or a small group leader) or friend so they can be praying along with you.