



Rebellion

After a period of walking with God, receiving life from Him, and doing good work that flourished in His ways, humanity chose to break relationship with God as Creator, Father, and King and chose to irresponsibly rule in their own way by taking instead of receiving and giving. They stopped trusting God's Word and walking in His ways with Him. In ungratefulness for all that He provided them, the man and woman chose to take knowledge and life in a different way than God had given them to receive. Rather than trusting God's good reign and relationship with them, this first family chose to turn away from God and turn to God's enemy, listening to the evil one's slippery lie of twisting God's words into meaning that serving themselves would bring them life instead of death, and that this life separate from God would be better for them instead of loving God and each other, and continuing in their good work and responsibility of ruling God's Kingdom with Him on earth. The consequences were personal and far reaching as the man and woman, named Adam and Eve, invited ungratefulness, entitlement, and separation into every crevice of their life and the world. Family was fractured. Food became scarcer. Work became toil. Instead of filling their relationships and responsibilities with goodness and love, they felt the emptying impact of sin's shame and blame-shifting and ran away from their relationship with God and responsibility before Him by hiding. The entire creation fell under the shadow of death, corruption, and destruction. Sin, like a parasite, entered God's good world as death began to eat away at everything. God, the Rescuer and Righteous Judge, moved on behalf of humanity and the earth by cursing the enemy and promising that there would be a future promised One who would crush the evil one. But the Holy Creator God and King who loved them like a Father, in keeping His Word that if they chose to not believe Him that they would die, had to make these broken humans leave His holy presence in His temple garden so they would not be consumed by His perfect justice. On their way out, He covered them in animal skins to cover their shame and nakedness. Relationship with God and each other, and responsibility to work the gift of creation, would now be fractured and difficult because humanity chose their selfish pride over God's self-giving peace. History began to spiral into increasing hardship, violence, greed, poverty, erosion, and disrepair. The first child of this now broken world committed murder. And the taking of life multiplied. The fear of death was everywhere, and sin crouched, attacked, and sought to rule over humans instead of having them serve God as King and working together to bless and fill the earth as His good co-heirs. More and more, humanity chose to manage good and evil in their own ways instead of by God's words and instruction, doing what was right in their own eyes and taking from God, each other, and the earth instead of receiving and giving. They continued shamefully focusing on making and taking a name for themselves, and they became more and more irresponsible in warping the purposes of family, community, art, and vocation, which in turn led to increasing evil and death. God the Creator, King, and Righteous Judge, sought to cleanse the world of this great wickedness including all of humanity. But He had grace on one man named Noah, who walked with God in close relationship, which in turn led the way to the salvation of this man's whole family, creation, and the world. Noah listened to God's Word in relationship with God, did responsible work for God, his family, and creation, and saw God begin again His Kingdom mission after the cleansing of the world.

– Mike Sullivan

Scriptures

[Genesis 3, 4:6-12, 16-24, 6:5, 6:8-13, 8-17, 9:1-3](#); [Deuteronomy 9:24, 32:6](#); [Judges 17:6](#); [Ecclesiastes 9:3](#);
[Psalm 14:2-3, 51:5](#); [Isaiah 59:2](#); [Jeremiah 17:9, 22:1-17](#); [Ezekiel 22](#); [Matthew 15:19](#); [Luke 6:45](#); [Luke 15:11-32](#)
[Romans 1:19-32, 3:23](#); [Ephesians 2:1-3](#); [1 Corinthians 15:56](#); [1 Peter 5:8](#); [Revelation 12:9](#)

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide


Series: The Grand Story
Message: Scene II - REBELLION
Speaker: Shawn Vandop
Date: October 8, 2023



Connect (30min)

*For *Connect* and *Prayer*, you may want to break into two groups, or groups of 3-4 people to enhance participation.

1. Thankful

- a. Have one group member read  [Psalm 100](#) and another group member open your time in prayer.
- b. “Thankful 3” – Share 3 things you are thankful for today: *“I’m thankful for...”*

2. Fall Focus

- a. What have you been focusing on in your personal relationship with Jesus this month?
- b. Share any Bible/Devotional plan and prayer focus that have. What are you learning and what is changing...?

Message Discussion (45min)

1. BIG Question!

Have you ever considered the following question yourself, or had another person ask you something similar?

If God created us and the earth good, true, and beautiful – why is there so much evil, self-destruction, ugliness, and rebellion in us and around us? In other words, if God is so good, why is there so much evil?

2. The Grand Story - REBELLION


a. Share your initial feedback on *Sunday’s Message*.

What connected with you, encouraged you, challenged you, or confused you? What did you learn?

b. Defining Sin

- i. How would you define the word “sin”?
- ii. Are you more prone to call your sins a ‘mistake’ or ‘failures’ -- and why?
- iii. What is the impact on our lives from not calling sin out for what it truly is?
- iv. Why is the concept of sin important to a society? (Objective right & wrong)
And if it’s important, why do so many people push back against the reality of sin?

3. The Fall

- a.  Read [Genesis 3](#) as a group. Using just 1 or 2 words – what is your initial reaction/response to this story?
- b. What do you learn about God here? What do you learn about humanity?
- c. What did the Serpent and Eve say about God and his commands in verses 1-5 that create confusion and helped lead to Adam and Eve’s disobedience?
- d. What did they perceive to be desirable in the *forbidden fruit*? Why did they eat it?
- e. What connection can be made between desire and disobedience?

Fallen man is not simply an imperfect creature who needs improvement: he is a rebel who must lay down his arms.

– C.S. Lewis

4. Effects of The Fall

- a. How do we see the effects of rebellion and the curse (introduced in [Gen. 3:14-19](#)) played out in our lives today?
- b. How are you struggling with the effects of the Fall right now?
- c. This is the bad news part of *The Grand Story*, but we know there is a *Hero* coming who will make all things right.
> How can you “rebel” against sin and the serpent, live with hope, and follow *The Hero* this week?

I'm deeply grateful that the Bible isn't a collection of sanitized stories of holy people. It's rather a collection of stories of ordinary, broken people loved by God, and made holy through a righteousness outside of themselves.

– Rich Villodas

5. This Week

- a. **Sign up** for our **Gospel Fluency** conference. Sat. October 21. www.mainstreetchurch.ca/events
 Sign up for our upcoming **Set Free Retreat**. November 3-4 at MSC. www.mainstreetchurch.ca/set-free
- b. 📺 **Watch** these 5min Videos on *Rebellion & Sin* from *The Bible Project* YouTube Channel
*[This is the Hope for the Evil that Affects Your Life](#)
*[Your 2 Basic Choices for Being Human](#)
*[Sin Involves More Than You Might Think](#)
- c. 📖 **Check out** these verses on the theme of *Rebellion* in your time with Jesus this week:
[Genesis 3, 4:6-12, 16-24, 6:5, 6:8-13, 8-17, 9:1-3](#); [Deuteronomy 9:24, 32:6](#); [Judges 17:6](#); [Ecclesiastes 9:3](#);
[Psalm 14:2-3, 51:5](#); [Isaiah 59:2](#); [Jeremiah 17:9, 22:1-17](#); [Ezekiel 22](#); [Matthew 15:19](#); [Luke 6:45](#); [Luke 15:11-32](#)
[Romans 1:19-32, 3:23](#); [Ephesians 2:1-3](#); [1 Corinthians 15:56](#); [1 Peter 5:8](#); [Revelation 12:9](#)

Prayer (15min)

*Share and pray in smaller groups (Men/Women or groups of 3-4).

P.R.A.Y.

📖 **Read:** [Psalm 119:9-16](#). Have one person read this psalm for the group.

>> **In response to the discussion and scripture – how can we pray for you (personally)?**

God's Power – Provision – Protection – Presence – Peace

🙏 **Pray:** Take 10min to P.R.A.Y. together. Time & transition to each component.

- Pause (be still & listen. 2min)
- Rejoice & Reflect (praise & thanks. 2min)
- Ask (pray for one another. 4min)
- Yes (surrender & trust. 2min)

