

# 1.2

## GOD'S REDEPTIVE PLAN

### LESSON BIG IDEA

I will find hope in God's redemptive plan and receive forgiveness for my sins.

### TRUTH ABOUT GOD

Although God judges sin, He also made a way for redemption.



### FOCUS VERSE: Genesis 3:14-15

<sup>14</sup> And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

<sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

### LESSON TEXT: Genesis 3:1-24



# BIBLICAL OVERVIEW

**Lesson Text:** Genesis 3:1-24

Genesis 3 reveals the reason for the hint of dark shadows in Genesis 2. A serpent appeared who questioned God's word. The man and woman were where they should not have been, near the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The woman may not have known precisely what God had said when He instructed Adam about the tree. Consequently, she listened to the serpent when it undermined God's warning and suggested God wanted to keep some good thing from the man and woman.

The forbidden tree was beautiful, and its fruit was good for food, like all the permitted trees. Also, it offered the promise of wisdom. The woman succumbed, ate the fruit, and offered it to her husband. He followed her example.

Suddenly, everything changed. The man and woman realized they were naked and discovered shame. They tried to deal with this problem by their own efforts.

Then there was a voice. The Lord God was walking in the garden. They quickly went into hiding when He called. Finally Adam answered in fear. He had never known this emotion before. He blamed his wife for his disobedience. Then God called the woman to account, and she blamed the serpent. The Lord cursed the serpent and set consequences for the man and woman.

For the first time, Adam named his wife. She was Eve. Her name means "life-giver." Yet in contrast, physical death invaded creation for the first time because God had to kill animals to clothe Adam and Eve to conceal their nakedness.

God announced that humans had become "as one of us." God was no longer the only one who could recognize good and evil. Humans could now decide for themselves. To prevent people from living forever in this fallen condition, the Lord expelled them from the Garden of Eden, putting cherubims and a flaming sword in place to prevent them from further access to the one tree that could have offered life.

Adam and Eve traded paradise for toil. Now Adam would till the ground from which His Creator had taken him.

GOD WAS NO LONGER THE ONLY ONE  
WHO COULD RECOGNIZE GOOD AND  
EVIL.



DAY 1

Bible Reading Plan

Genesis 23 □ 24 □ 25 □ 26 □ | Matthew 6 □

Genesis 3:1-5

- <sup>1</sup> Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?
- <sup>2</sup> And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:
- <sup>3</sup> but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.
- <sup>4</sup> And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:
- <sup>5</sup> for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Biblical Insight

The word translated *subtil* means the serpent was skilled in deception. When first heard, the snake’s words seemed to be just what God had said: “Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden.” However, God had told Adam, “Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat” (Genesis 2:16).

At first, Eve’s answer suggests she was well-informed. But God had said nothing about touching the tree. At this, the serpent blatantly denied God’s warning and claimed God wanted to keep her in the dark so she could not make her own decisions about good and evil.

Daily Devotion

Do we live with a “shall not” or a “mayest freely” view of God? Indeed, God speaks clearly about what is contrary to His will. It is interesting to note the language God used to communicate His boundaries to Adam and Eve. God emphasized the multitude of blessings. Satan highlighted restrictions. Satan works to discourage and deceive by twisting the will of God into a negative perspective.

Have you ever seen a baby take his or her first steps? Those steps are a pathetic example of human mobility. But Mom and Dad and everyone around pulled out their phones and shared the first steps with the world. We celebrate and encourage progress.

Satan condemns the failed efforts. God celebrates progress.

So if you fall short of your goal to read the Bible in a year, instead of beating yourself up over not reaching your goal, celebrate that you are reading your Bible. If you fall short of your intent to pray for an hour today, celebrate the precious time you did have with God. Live with a “mayest freely” view of God. He rejoices in every step you take toward Him.

Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this to your life today?*

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## DAY 2

### Bible Reading Plan

Genesis 27 ☐ 28 ☐ 29 ☐ 30 ☐ | Matthew 7 ☐

#### Genesis 3:6-9

<sup>6</sup> And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

<sup>7</sup> And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

<sup>8</sup> And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.

<sup>9</sup> And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

#### Biblical Insight

Having been lured by the serpent's deceptive words, Eve's view of the forbidden tree changed. Like the permitted trees of Eden's Garden, its fruit looked good to eat. The tree was pleasant to the eyes. Convinced that eating the fruit would grant wisdom, she shared it with Adam.

The serpent had promised their eyes would open, and they did. But Adam and Eve did not like what they saw. They were naked. They tried to reverse the consequences of their disobedience.

Then they heard God's voice and tried to hide. But God called to Adam, "Where art thou?"

#### Daily Devotion

Imagine experiencing severe pain in your stomach. Your loved ones encourage you to go to the doctor, and you reluctantly decide to go. But when you arrive at the doctor, you tell her everything is fine. Instead of sharing your pain with the doctor, you hide your weakness. Hiding your weakness from the doctor hurts your health. Attempting to hide your weakness from God hurts your spiritual health.

God knows everything. Thus, when He asked Adam and Eve, "Where are you?" the question allowed Adam and Eve to confess their sin and reveal their desperate need for mercy and healing. Instead, they made excuses and cast blame.

God still graciously responded with compassion because God is love. Adam and Eve, however, missed an opportunity. Showing weakness would have been their greatest strength at that tragic moment.

Where are you today? What weaknesses have you attempted to hide from God? Hiding only hurts you. Confess your faults. Allow the grace of God to heal you today.

#### Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this to your life today?*

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DAY 3

Bible Reading Plan

Genesis 31 □ 32 □ 33 □ 34 □ | Matthew 8 □

Genesis 3:10–15

<sup>10</sup> And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.  
<sup>11</sup> And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?  
<sup>12</sup> And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.  
<sup>13</sup> And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.  
<sup>14</sup> And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:  
<sup>15</sup> and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Biblical Insight

When Adam heard God’s voice, he confessed his fear and acknowledged his nakedness. He blamed Eve for his condition, indirectly accusing God. Next, God asked the woman what she had done. She blamed the serpent for deceiving her. Turning to the snake, God told him that he—who had been more deceptive than any beast—would now be more cursed than every beast.

Daily Devotion

Genesis 3:15, an early promise of the Messiah, includes three statements of enmity: (1) between the deceptive snake and the deceived woman, (2) between the snake’s descendants and the woman’s descendants, and (3) between a single male descendant of Eve (i.e., the Messiah, Jesus) and the serpent who deceived Eve (i.e., Satan).

In *The Power of Meaning*, Emily Esfahani Smith shares the remarkable, heartbreaking story of Emeka Nnaka. Emeka played defensive end for a semi-pro team. Tragically, a routine tackle left him paralyzed from the neck down. The depth of his suffering after the accident led to some serious soul-searching.

“The truth is,” Emeka confessed, “[Before the accident] I was a guy who partied a lot. I was living a purposeless life.” Afterward, Emeka started serving at his church as an adviser to youth and sharing his story. “It wasn’t until I started serving people that a light came on,” Emeka explained, “and I realized who I really am—today, I’m someone who tries to put other people first.” Emeka returned to college, finished his degree, and continued in a master’s program for counseling. Still paralyzed, he believes his life today has more spiritual meaning than ever before. God writes redemptive stories. Discover hope in the suffering. Live redemptively today.

Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this to your life today?*

# DAY 4

## Bible Reading Plan

Genesis 35 □ 36 □ 37 □ 38 □ 39 □ | Matthew 9 □

### Genesis 3:16-19

<sup>16</sup> Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

<sup>17</sup> And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

<sup>18</sup> thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

<sup>19</sup> in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

### Biblical Insight

Sin has consequences. For Eve, there would be sorrow in childbearing, and her husband would rule her. For Adam, the ground would be cursed with thorns and thistles, foreign to Eden. His work to feed his family was difficult his entire life. The Eden of Genesis before the Fall included no such consequences, but Adam and Eve's rejection of God's plan changed everything.

### Daily Devotion

In an individualistic society, we view sin from an individual perspective. True, sin damages personal relationships with God and leads to spiritual death if left unrepented. The effects of sin, though, result in devastating consequences far beyond an individual. Genesis reveals the heartbreaking reality of sin. When parents play with sin, children fight generational habits of destruction.

Now, no person lives without fault, and belonging to Christ frees us from condemnation. The difference between a sanctified person and a sinner is sin "becomes your permanent enemy, not your secret lover" (Timothy Tennent, *The Call to Holiness*). The courage to fight sin involves not only protecting ourselves but protecting the ones we love from the unintended consequences of sin. We recognize the long-lasting ramifications and destroying effect of sin on the people we love, so we war against it.

And we do not fight alone. We fight sin together. The power of sin's destruction thrives in darkness. A holy community diffuses the power of sin through accountability and confession: "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed" (James 5:16, NKJV).

### Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this to your life today?*

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DAY 5

Bible Reading Plan

Genesis 40 □ 41 □ 42 □ 43 □ 44 □ | Matthew 10 □

Genesis 3:20-24

<sup>20</sup> And Adam called his wife’s name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.  
<sup>21</sup> Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them.  
<sup>22</sup> And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:  
<sup>23</sup> therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.  
<sup>24</sup> So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Biblical Insight

The plural pronoun *us* in Genesis 3:22 gives no hint of plurality within God. The noun translated *God* is the plural *Elohim*. But in the Hebrew language, the verb controls the number of the noun. In this case, the verb translated *said* is singular, referring to God as singular. When accompanied by singular verbs, the Hebrew language uses plural nouns to indicate fullness and intensity. This usage is sometimes called the plural of majesty.

Apparently, God spoke to His angels, the only other intelligent beings in existence. This idea seems to be confirmed by His use of the cherubims to prevent access to the tree of life.

Daily Devotion

God is wholly holy. All of God’s attributes are complete and in full perfection. One characteristic of God’s character is not more representative of Him than another (Timothy Tennent, *The Call to Holiness*).

We rate God’s attributes in a hierarchy based upon our experience. When a prodigal experiences God’s forgiveness, she places great value on His mercy. When a family endures the gross damage of prison-worthy sins, they value His righteous judgment. But God is wholly loving and just, as only He can be.

When God banished humanity from the garden, God’s justice served as a pure act of love. If they had remained in the garden, they would have had access to the Tree of Life and lived forever separated from a relationship with God. Banishing humanity from the garden demonstrated God’s love and initiated His preordained plan of reconciliation through Christ.

Justice and love were on full display on the Cross as in the Garden. On the Cross, the Creator identified with the creation and reconciled His creation back to Him in a pure expression of justice and love. God is love. God is just. God is for us.

Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this to your life today?*

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**Lesson Title:** God's Redemptive Plan**Scripture Focus:** Genesis 3:14–15**The Lesson in Context**

The map of deliverance spans all of recorded history and beyond, even to the foundation of the earth. Jesus was “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8). His love still reaches for all humanity: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

What was lost in the Garden of Eden was restored at the cross. The Tree of Life was transplanted from the Garden to Golgotha. Through the sacrifice of the Lamb of God, we have the promise of eternal life. John the Baptist proclaimed Jesus to be “the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29), and His death, burial, and resurrection provided salvation and the opportunity to be restored to the life lost in the Garden. We find hope in God's redemptive plan and receive forgiveness for sins.

**Group Discussion**

1. Have you ever tried to imagine what it would have been like to live before there was any sin? What would a perfect world look like?
2. What are some wrong choices you have made in life? As you look back at those mistakes, what is your reaction?
3. Why would people choose the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil over the Tree of Life?
4. Have you seen situations where something obviously wrong was twisted into something to celebrate? How does a new spin make the evil acceptable for some people?
5. How do we experience the gospel today? In what ways does it change our lives?

**My Prayer for the Upcoming Week**

How do you want to be different because of what you have experienced today?

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