



#24 - The Fall of Man

Genesis 3:1-13

PICTURES NEEDED

24-1 Adam and Eve with the serpent

REVIEW (Before Teaching Lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review) Why did God make the woman? How did God make the woman? What is God's plan for a man and a woman?
- **The Big Question Review:** What is special about the marriage relationship? Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review:** Mark 10:6-8
In marriage, two people become one flesh.

"But at the beginning of creation God `made them male and female.' 7 `For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, 8 and the two will become one flesh. 'So they are no longer two, but one.

LESSON CONTENT

Note: The Bible verses included in the lesson are from the NIV 1984 edition. The wording of the questions is derived from that version. If another version of the Bible is used, questions may need to be adapted.

God created Adam and Eve in his image and gave them in a perfect place in which to live. Where did Adam and Eve live? They lived in the Garden of Eden where they had everything they needed.

What was the one command that God gave to Adam and Eve? God told them not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

What did God say would happen if they disobeyed his command? God said that if they ate from that tree they would surely die.

Because God made man in his image, people are unique from all other animals. What do people have that the other animals don't? People are eternal beings designed to live in a relationship with God. God made man with a mind, a will and emotion.

What does having a mind mean people can do? People have a mind, which means they can think and learn. They can learn about and know God.

What does having a will mean people can do? People also has a free will, which means that they can make moral choices. They can either choose to submit to God and do things God's way and experience God's blessing, or they can choose to go their own way and experience destruction and separation from God.

What does having emotions mean about people? Having emotions mean people have feelings. They can love or hate and often like or desire things that aren't of God.

What was different about Adam and Eve's nature from our nature? Adam and Eve were created good by God. They weren't born with a sin nature like we are. The evil desires of our sinful nature lead us into sin. They were led into sin by outside temptation.

Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden chose to disobey God and do what appealed to them. They rebelled against God and disobeyed his command. Genesis 3:1-13 tells the story of their rebellion which is known as "The Fall".

Genesis 3:1-6 – The Fall

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' "

⁴"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵"For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

In this passage we can see the crafty way Satan in the form of a serpent deceived Eve into following her desires into sin. What did he do in the following verses?

- o Verse 1 - "Did God really say..." He planted seeds of doubt against God.
- o Verse 4 - , "'You will not surely die,' the serpent said to the woman." He denied the danger of disobedience. He contradicted what God had said.
- o Verse 5 - "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." He promised great benefit.

It was Satan's deceptive promise that Eve could be like God that led Eve to take the final step into sin. This is the foundation of all sin, the idea of personal sovereignty.

What is personal sovereignty? Personal sovereignty is the idea that I can be in control of my life and make my own decisions about what is right and wrong for me to do. I can be like God. It is rebellion against God and his sovereignty. Whoever is sovereign has the right to rule. If I am sovereign, then I have the right to rule my own life. If God is sovereign, then I am under his authority.

What do we have to remember about God to keep from sinning? We have to remember that God is our Creator, our sovereign ruler and we belong to him. He is the one who has set the standard for us to follow according to his good design and his holy and perfect character. We can't decide for ourselves what is right and wrong.

When do we fall into sin? When we do what we want instead of what God wants we sin.

What happens when we sin? Sin separates us from God and his goodness. It leads us down a path of harm and destruction. Because God loves us, he wants it to go well for us. God hates sin because he is holy and good and he knows sin hurts us.

Genesis 3:7-13 – The Consequences of Disobedience

⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

¹⁰He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

¹¹And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

¹²The man said, "The woman you put here with me--she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

What happened to Adam and Eve once they sinned?

- o Verse 7 - They lost their innocence. They recognized that they were naked. They felt shame about their condition and tried to cover themselves up.

- o Verse 8 - Their relationship with God was broken and they tried to hide from him.
- o Verse 12-13 - Neither one of them was willing to take responsibility for what they did. Adam blamed Eve for giving him the fruit and Eve blamed the serpent for deceiving her.

James 1:14-15 says, *Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.*

This verse gives us the equation of sin. (Write it on the board.)

Evil desires + temptation = sin that leads to death.

Satan knows our weaknesses and where we are likely to give into temptation. He tempts us in the areas where we have evil desires and are vulnerable and weak.

What are evil desires? Evil desires are any desires that aren't in line with or submitted to God's desires. If something is evil, it is not functioning according to God's good design. Evil is a corruption of what is good. It is anything that is harmful to God's creation. Evil desires are ones that will end up hurting us or others.

What happens if we follow our own desires? When we follow our own desires or emotions rather than God's desires and his truth, we end up giving in to Satan's temptations which will lead us into sin.

If God created all things good, how did sin and death enter the world? Sin and death entered the world because Adam and Eve chose to disobey God's command and gave into Satan's temptation that they could be like God. Just as Satan's temptation led Adam and Eve astray in the Garden of Eden it remains a problem for us today.

A rhyme to always keep in mind is: Thinking something's good for you, doesn't make it right to do.

LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** How did Satan get Eve to eat the fruit? What happened to Adam and Eve after they ate the fruit? What is sin? What was Eve's first step into sin?
- **Thought Questions:** Why does God hate sin? What is at the heart of all sin? Why do we resist following God's commands? Why do we do things that hurt us and others?
- **Prayer:** Pray that you would recognize when you are being tempted to go down a path of sin. Thank God for his truth and pray that you would believe it with all your heart and therefore choose to follow it. Thank God that he is holy and perfect and wants what is good and right. Pray that you would want what God wants.
- **The Big Question: What causes us to sin?**
Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.

- **Memory Verse:** James 1:14-15 If we want what is wrong, we will sin.

(Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.)

Questions: What does it mean to be enticed? What is the equation of sin?

ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Have the children answer the two questions individually or as a group. What did you learn from this lesson? How can you put into practice what you learned?
- ★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the class notes and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse.
- ★ **Activity Page:** The Steps into and away from Sin

The Steps into Sin: Thinking about how Satan tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden what were the steps Eve took into sin?

 1. Doubt God.
How did Satan get Eve to doubt God? He challenged what God said. "Did God really say?"
 2. Deny the danger.
How did Satan deny the danger of disobeying God? He contradicted what God said would happen. "You will not surely die."
 3. Believe lies or deception.
How did Satan get Eve to disobey God? He gave her a false promise of benefit. He lied to her. "Your eyes will be open and you will be like God."

The Steps away from Sin: What would be the opposite steps we would need to take to avoid falling into sin?

 1. Trust God.
How do you learn to trust God? Think about who God is. Pray for insight and understanding. Rely on God.
 2. Recognize the danger.
How do you learn to recognize danger? Think about the consequences of your actions. If you do something what will be the likely result. Is that what you want to happen in your life? Is this in line with the Word of God?
 3. Know and believe the truth.
What does that mean you do? You have to know what the word of God says and act on it. That means you study the Bible so you can recognize ideas that contradict it and things that people say that aren't true or want you to do that will hurt you or others.

★ **This Week's Big Question:** Have the students fill in the blanks for the way the memory verse answers the big question.

If we want what is wrong, we will sin.

★ **Coloring Page:** Color the lesson picture.

- **Craft:** Make a snake

As a reminder that Satan took on the form of a serpent in the Garden of Eden when he tempted Eve, make a snake.

Materials: cover stock paper, crayons, markers or color pencils, scissors

Preparation: Run off craft 24 on cover stock paper

Instructions: According to a pattern color the snake and then cut along the lines of the spiral to make a coiled snake.

- **Game:** Make the longest snake

As a reminder that Satan took on the form of a serpent in the Garden of Eden when he tempted Eve, make a snake.

Instructions: See who can make the longest snake by tearing a piece of paper like a coil. If the coil breaks that is the length of the snake. Dangle the coils to measure the longest one.

- **Activity:** Memorize the rhyme:

Thinking something's good for you, doesn't make it right to do.

JOURNAL

The journal is passed out at the end of class for the students to complete at home. It has six poetic readings and related Bible verses. It would be beneficial for the teacher to read through and be familiar with its content.