



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

## #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

<sup>1</sup>Now 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'?"

<sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but 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.' "

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

<sup>6</sup>When 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**

*<sup>7</sup>Then 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.*

*<sup>8</sup>Then 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. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"*

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

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

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

*<sup>13</sup>Then 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:** Ask the students to summarize in one sentence what the lesson was about. Then have them give three main points covered in the lesson. An example is below.

Theme: When Adam and Eve ate the fruit that God had told them not to eat, they caused sin to enter God's good creation.

1. The serpent tempted Eve to eat the fruit by lying to her and causing her to doubt God.
2. Eve gave some of the fruit to Adam and he also ate it.
3. Adam and Eve were ashamed of what they did and they tried to hide from God.

- ★ **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.

#### • **Further Understanding:** Investigation/Reasoning Skills

##### **The Equation of Sin**

Develop understanding of the memory verse and the equation of sin.

James 1:14-15 - *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.*

- What two things come together to cause sin? Temptation and evil desires. The equation of sin becomes "temptation + evil desires = sin that destroys."
- What is temptation? Temptations are things put before us that we want even if they are not good for us. They are things that take us off God's path and appeal to our natural desires.
- In what area does temptation work? Temptation works best in an area where we have evil or wrong desires. If you don't have a desire for something wrong it can't tempt you.
- What are evil desires? Evil desires are ones that are not of God and lead us into sin. They are contrary to God and his truth and character. They are desires that if we give into them will hurt us and others.
- How can the equation of sin be broken? To break an equation one of the elements of it has to be removed. In terms of breaking the equation of sin that means you either have to remove the temptation or the evil desires.
- What is the most reasonable option for breaking the equation of sin and why? The most reasonable option is to change your desires so that you want what God wants. It is the only reasonable option because you will never be able to get rid of all temptations.
- How do we usually think of breaking the equation of sin? Usually we think that if we got rid of the temptation we wouldn't sin.
- Why doesn't that work? You still have the desire for something wrong so as soon as the opportunity presents itself you will sin.

Illustration: If you are in a boat in the middle of the ocean that is sinking because it has a leak, you can think that if you got rid of all the water in the ocean the boat would stop sinking. That would be true but a better solution is to patch the leak in the boat. It is true that if we got rid of all temptation we wouldn't sin, but since that is an impossibility we need to deal with our own evil desires that cause us to sin.

What makes something evil? Evil is anything that is not functioning according to God's design. It is a corruption of what is good. It is anything that is harmful to God's creation. For evil to exist, something good had to exist in the first place. To overcome evil and return to the good state in which we were designed to function we have to deal with the causes of corruption in our selves.

Why did Eve sin? In the garden Satan, the tempter, clothed as a serpent caused Eve to doubt God's word. She believed the lies of the devil and chose to follow him into sin. Whoever or whatever we believe is who we will follow. If our faith (trust) is in God and his truth then we won't follow temptation into sin.

What happened when Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness? When Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, Jesus countered every temptation with the word of God saying, "It is written..." We have to recognize Satan's craftiness and his purpose, turn from the temptation and put our faith in the promises of God. The choice is to believe Satan's deceptions and follow a path that leads to death and destruction or to believe the truth of Christ and follow a path that leads to abundant and eternal life. Jesus didn't give into temptation because he only wanted to do what God the Father wanted

Discussion: Why do we believe Satan's lies and deceptions? Why do we want what will hurt us? Do we more easily believe the lies of Satan or the truth of God? Why?

## JOURNAL

The journal is passed out at the end of class for the students to complete at home. It has six readings that answer a digging deeper question. It would be beneficial for the teacher to work through the journal readings also.

Digging Deeper: What does Satan do?

Reading 1: James 1:13-18 Satan tempts us where we have evil desires. Where does temptation come from? What does giving into evil desires lead to? What does God want to do for us? Why do we choose what is evil and leads to death over what is good and leads to life?

Reading 2: 1 Peter 5:8-11 Satan prowls around looking for someone to destroy. What are we to be? Why? How do we resist Satan? What does God want to do for us?

Reading 3: John 8:42-47 Satan speaks lies. What is the devil like? Who listens to him? Who listens to God?

Reading 4: John 10:7-10 Satan wants to kill, steal and destroy. What happens when Jesus is our gate? What does the thief want to do? How does he do that?

Reading 5: 2 Corinthians 11:1-15 Satan masquerades as an angel of light. What was Paul's concern for the Corinthians? What would cause them to turn away from Jesus? What do false apostles do? How do you protect yourself from false apostles?

Reading 6: James 4:7-10 Vulnerability to Temptation. Identify where you have desires that easily lead you to give into temptation. Think about what God's word has to say about each of these areas and how your thinking about them needs to change. Pray that your desires would change so that you wouldn't give into temptation.