

Man's Disobedience

AIM:

To learn how temptation led to the alienation of mankind from God

Theme : The First Sin and Its Punishment

UNIT 1, LESSON 3

Genesis 3:1-24 (NRSV)

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'"² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden;³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'"⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die;⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God,^a knowing good and evil."⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

⁸ They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"¹⁰ He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate."¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

¹⁶ To the woman he said,

“I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

¹⁷ And to the man^b he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”



²⁰ The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹ And the LORD God made garments of skins for the man^d and for his wife, and clothed them.

²² Then the LORD God said, “See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”— ²³ therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a sword flaming and turning to guard the way to the tree of life.

Teacher’s Preparation

The objectives of this lesson are to learn:

1. How sin entered the world
2. How to overcome physical, emotional and intellectual temptations
3. That there are consequences of disobeying God

Students’ have all heard the story about Adam, Eve, and the serpent. Satan disguised himself as a serpent in order to convince Eve that she should eat the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge. Adam was then convinced by Eve to eat the fruit, knowing it was wrong. You should emphasize the fact that Satan can come in many forms, not just as a serpent, and can tempt us to do things which are against the will of God. Guide the students in knowing what is right; versus wrong ; and how they can know what the will of God is. Help them identify the different types of sin: emotional, intellectual, and physical. Emphasize the consequences of the first sin on man and woman. Students should identify what their priorities in life are, and how God works in their lives. Help the students see that God should be in control, and we should not try to be like God and handle our lives on our own. Students should be reminded that this is not just a story of made up characters or facts ; but there are major themes for lives to consider. First of all, there is the theme of distancing ourselves from God and not heeding to His will for us. Secondly there is the theme

The four rivers of Eden are the Gihon, Pishon, Tigris and Euphrates

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of having knowledge without God. The Garden of Eden was a place of communion with God and humanity, where man lived in harmony with creation. Lastly, it was God's plan to send Jesus Christ, the Son of God, to be with humanity in the fullness of time. God saved man from Satan's power through Jesus Christ.



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Student Introduction

1. Have you ever been called out by a teacher in class for doing something inappropriate, or have you been punished by your parents for disobeying them? What did you learn after these experiences?
2. If the situation was reversed and someone disrespected/ disobeyed your requests, how would you feel?
3. Can you think of any examples from the Bible of people who disobeyed/ rebelled against God? What were the consequences of their actions?

Bible Exploration

Adam, Eve & the Serpent

Adam and Eve were warned not to eat the Fruit from the Tree of Knowledge, but Satan took the form of a serpent and convinced Eve who then convinced Adam to eat this Fruit. God warned them they would die, and even with this warning they still ate the fruit. When God was in the garden looking for them they hid away because their eyes had been opened and they saw they were naked. God asked them if they ate the fruit from the tree, at this point everyone pointed fingers, just like we blame our brothers, sisters, or friends for something we did. Eve blamed the serpent for tricking her, even though she knew it was wrong, and Adam blamed Eve for giving him the fruit (Gen. 3:11-13). This is how sin entered the world, not only did they disobey God but shame, guilt, and blame did as well. As punishment God sent them out of the Garden of Eden.

The Significance of the Garden of Eden

Adam was created in God's image, and was given the responsibility to name all the living creatures. God noticed Adam needed a helper and so from Adam's rib he made Eve. Adam and Eve were living with the Lord in the Garden of Eden. God provided Adam and Eve with everything they could have imaged. The Garden was a beautiful place, full of life. Adam and Eve were there to take care of this beautiful garden that God entrusted to them. God was generous and had no rules except one; he did not want them to eat the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge found in the middle of the garden. If they did they would die. Although they did not die, God did send them out of the Garden of Eden as punishment. Adam's sin affected all creation and the Earth that was created for man (Gen. 3:14-19).

What does this tell us about our relationship with God?

Adam and Eve were right by God's side, they could talk with him day or night. After their



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betrayal to God they broke their relationship and trust with him. Being sent out of the Garden signifies us having been distanced from God's presence.

Consequences of disobeying God's commandments: Spiritual Death vs. Physical death

God told Adam and Eve that they would die if they ate the fruit from the tree of knowledge of Good and Evil, but they did not! Does that mean God tricked them and lied to them? No, God was right; they did die a spiritual death. The spiritual death refers to losing that connection to God through disobeying or sinning against God. When Adam and Eve sinned they were separated from the presence of God. Otherwise they would have lived with God forever. Adam and Eve betrayed the trust of God and were cast away from the presence of God. As a result of the disobedience of the first parents, sin entered the world. Adam's sin affected all creation and the earth that was created for man (Gen.3:14-19). Does this mean that we are lost from the presence of God forever? No. God has provided for man's redemption and salvation through Jesus Christ. We can overcome spiritual death by accepting Jesus Christ as our personal savior. Romans 6:23 states "23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." We have been provided redemption from our sins through Jesus Christ.

How to overcome temptations?

Satan was no friend of God, he hated God and so he hated Adam and Eve. Remember that Satan took the form of the serpent, this means Satan can take any form he chooses to tempt you. This can be done emotionally, intellectually, and physically. John 8:44 says Satan is a liar and a murderer. He can speak lies right into your thoughts; he wants you to stray away from the Lord. You may see yourself listening to these lies and thoughts, when you prioritize worldly things over spending time with the Lord. Satan can also use other people to pull you astray, how? Sometimes he can make you feel like you are missing out on something better, or when we question the authority of God. Do not be tempted to put God last, because if he is first in your hearts Satan cannot pull you away.

In James 1:13, we read, No one, when tempted, should say, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴ But one is tempted by one's own desire, being lured and enticed by it; ¹⁵ then, when that desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and that sin, when it is fully grown, gives birth to death.

Although temptation is wrong but is not Sin by itself. It becomes Sin only when we allow temptation to become action. Jesus was tempted (Mark 1:13; Luke 4:1-13) but He never sinned (Hebrews 4:15) Sin occurs when we yield to temptations I Corinthians 10:13 says "¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it." God will never push you past your limits, he knows what you are capable of, but we still need to make the right choice, and there always is a choice. God's way is a brighter way.

We now understand that through God we can have power over sin. The first sin was provoked by the serpent, spread by Eve, which caused a betrayal by Adam. With God's grace we can overcome sin when we repent and ask for forgiveness.

*We can overcome
spiritual death by
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Activities

This game is similar to Rock- Paper- Scissors

1. Partner up (if there are uneven numbers, the teacher can play or one group can rotate partners)
2. Stand back to back
3. On the count of 3 you will turn around and face your partner with your "Pose"

POSES:

Adam – Hands on your waist

Eve – Curtsy (where girl bends her knees while bowing her head)

Serpent – hands up shaped like a snake

Determine who won that round, play two more times for best out of three.

WINS:

Serpent beats Eve

he convinced her to eat of the Fruit and sin against God

Eve beats Adam

She then convinced Adam to eat of the Fruit

Second Adam Beats the Serpent

With God man can overcome sin through His Grace and our repentance

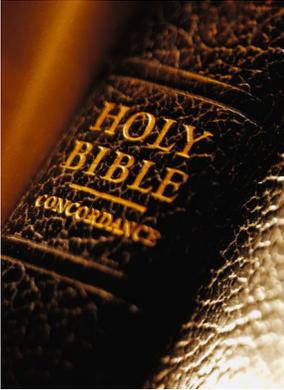


Lesson Review

1. How did sin enter into the world? Is temptation a sin?
2. How did Adam make a mistake if it was Eve who took the fruit (Genesis 3:17)
3. Does sin only come in the form of slithery serpents? If not, what would sin look like? Give a few examples.
4. When you fall into sin, what should you do to be back in favor with God?

Values For Life

1. Sin is in our world but we can overcome it
 2. Ask for God's forgiveness when you have gone astray
 3. Remember that God provides you with all your needs rather than your wants
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Faith In Action

1. Think of a time when you wanted something but you were told you are too young to have it. Why did your parents not give these things to you? How does this relate to God's forbidding Adam and Even to eat from the tree of knowledge and truth?
 2. How can you prioritize your life so the worldly possessions are not what you love the most?
 3. Give an example of how each type of temptation can replace the Fathers love in our hearts with something impure; emotional, intellectual, and physical.
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Memory Verse

¹⁵“Do not love the world or the things in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world;”

1 John 2:15

Closing Prayer

Lord our heavenly Father, the creator of all things on Earth and mankind. We thank you for our creation and life. We humbly come before you to ask for your forgiveness for the sins we have committed. Lord we know you are our provider and no other will take care of us as you have. We ask for your strength to overcome all temptations, physical, emotional, and intellectual. Lord we pray your love remains within us and not worldly possessions. We commit our lives to you and pray through our life we can bring other to your kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen