

APPLICATION

Find a person whom you trust and establish a relationship with them where you can confess your sin. For “love covers a multitude of sin” (1st Peter 4:8).

Read Genesis 3:1-24

- What does this chapter reveal to us about life on Earth?
- What fig leaves are you hiding behind?
- How has sin broken your relationship with God?
- How has sin broken your relationship with others?
- How has sin broken your relationship with creation? (the work of your hands, your home, your use of resources, or the way you engage with products of this world)
- What lies are being whispered to you?
- What part of Genesis three is most curious to you?
- What stood out to you the most in this week’s sermon?
- Why is it important that God promised a hero in this chapter? How is Jesus the “head” over you, bearing the responsibility for your sin and shame? Is your relationship with Him like this?

Inductive Bible Study

- Underline verse 3:21 and draw a line to link it to verse 3:7.
- Underline verse 3:15, write “proto-evangelion” in the margin.
- Highlight God’s question in verse 3:9.
- Draw a line from verse 3:4 to verse 2:17.

For Parents: Kids sin. You probably know this all too well. You also sin. It is your job to paint a picture to them of what to do when sin happens. Will they see you hide and blame shift or repent and forgive? When they sin, they need a safe space to come and reveal their sin. They will try to hide, and they will be ashamed. As a parent, try to be emotionally calm, loving, and forgiving. Create the space for them to come near, for them to understand. Be strong and deliver a just punishment in kindness, also seeking to cover their sin in love.



The Fall • Session 7

We live in a fallen world; a world riddled by sin, the effects of sin, and our own meager attempts to fix it all. Like a child’s attempt at fixing a smashed vase with scotch tape and Elmer’s glue, we can’t put our broken lives back together. Covering up won’t do. Running away doesn’t work. Everywhere we turn, sin has already seeped in. It is either causing misery and strife or lying dormant just waiting to rear its ugly head. Our world is broken. We all know this. Whether you erred or not, you will feel the heartache. You will face suffering. Live long enough and you really begin to see it, even in yourself.

“No one gets through life unscathed.” We will gain scars. Some will be deep. Some will fester. Some will fade with time. Some will linger and stay with us until our dying days. Why is this so? Why does life on this planet seem to have a deep flaw in it at times? If God is good and he made this world good, what went wrong?

Genesis Chapter 3 is where we see a picture of why our world is out of balance. This chapter reveals to us why life is broken at times. We were created to live out the creation mandate of chapter two. But we fell in Chapter 3. Work is difficult. Relationships don’t quite fit right. God and man are at times enemies and out of sync.

So, in just three chapters we see God creating everything, then giving the creation mandate - our purpose, and then we fell, and that all went sideways. Chapters 1,2,3: Creation, Creation’s Mandate, and Creation’s Fall. What a story this is in just three pages! This account of “The Fall” sets the context for all the following chapters of the Bible.

BIG IDEA: The fall of mankind into sin produces conditions of alienation from the Creator God, from fellow human beings, and from the created world.

a. Our Enemy

In this chapter, we are introduced to our enemy. You have an adversary (1st Peter 5:8)! Human life on this planet is not unattacked. In this primeval story, our enemy is depicted as a serpent. There are two words in Hebrew for serpent. The word used in Genesis 3 is “Nahas” (na-ha-s) which means “the hissing one” or “the whispering one.”

I. The Fall

This enemy of ours comes to Eve and deceives her with twisted words and devious aims. The serpent doesn’t have Eve’s best intentions in mind. Eve then took of the tree God had commanded her not to eat of and she ate. She broke the one command God gave them. She then shared the fruit with Adam, and he ate too! Which means he is right there with her! He is just as guilty; just as foolish.

In this one act of disobeying God’s command, Adam and Eve fell from their position. Like a piece of glass with a small chip on the corner, everything about God’s good order was shot with deficiencies. Cracks will come. All of us are now born into this impaired world, into a fallen world. It is a good world, but it is now also a broken world. *Sin has broken relationships with God, with each other, and with creation.*



Sin has broken our relationship with God. We are now guilty before a holy God. We are enemies and we are alienated from him. Sin broke our relationships with others: family, friends, and co-workers. We now hurt and are hurt by each other. We distrust and we take advantage. Sin has broken our relationship with creation and the things of creation. We misuse products. We hurt the Earth. We take and abuse natural resources. The Earth was damaged in our fall (Romans 8:22-25).

Everything has now gained the impairment of disorder. In this fall, sin has gone out into everything and death now reigns (Romans 5:12, 3:23, 6:36.) Sin and death now plague creation. Things now kill each other and die. It reigns in mankind. We now spiritually die when we sin and when others sin against us. Drip by drip we drink in deathliness. And, worst of all, now God must die. God has to now suffer and taste death too in order to fix all this (John 1:29, Colossians 2:13-15, 1st Peter 2:24, Hebrews 9:14-15,22,26-28, 10:8-14, 2nd Cor 5:21, Acts 2:23).

II. The Confrontation

After this great fall, God comes and asks an important question: “Where are you?” He knows full well what they have done and all the issues they now will face. He asks them if they realize this too. Yet we see them hiding. Adam and Eve isolated from God and from each other. They are already suffering the effects of their sin before God ever judges or punishes. This is what sin does. It hurts us. Before any punishment for the wrongdoing, sin brings shame and brokenness.

*Adam is blamed for this fall, not Eve, because he bears the burden of responsibility for the unit. While they are both guilty, he is the head. In the same way, while we are guilty, Jesus, as our head, bears that burden for us (Colossians 1:18, Psalms 68:19, Isaiah 53, Matthew 8:17).

III. The Outcomes

They died spiritually.

They fell out of alignment with God.

They were ashamed, they hid, and covered up with fig leaves.

The blame shifted and now friction ensues between them.

They got cursed and the ground is cursed.

God has to kill something in creation to cover their sin.

Paradise was lost- they are kicked out of the garden.

b. Proto-Evangelium

While we meet our enemy in this chapter, we see a subtle picture of our victory here too! Despite how bad this chapter and all its implications is, God promises a hero to come (Genesis 3:15)! This hero will crush the head of the serpent! This is a picture of Jesus! We also see a picture of salvation through a sacrifice and through the covering of sin by the clothing of sinners in righteous skin (Genesis 3:21, Psalm 32:1, Romans 4:7, Revelation 3:5,8, Isaiah 61:10).