Opening

Gathering: Give an example of how you have been deceived by crafty words.

Today's Focus: To understand how sin corrupted God's perfect creation, how our sinful desires have not changed since the first sin, and how God responds to the sins of His people.

Key Verses: No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. 1 Cor. 10:13

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ. Romans 6:23

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Creation (Genesis 1)

What is the meatiest verse in the Bible? = Lays foundation, dispels false teachings
   Genesis 1:1 = In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth
Why did God create the heavens and the earth and everything we know, including us? = by Your will
   Revelation 4:11 = He wanted to - an object for His love, same reason we have kids
What did God think about His creation when He was finished?
   Genesis 1:31a = It was very good, perfect, just as He wanted

What is the literary form of Genesis 1?
   Genesis 1:3-5 = Poetic prose, a prelude to the rest of His Story
Is Genesis 1 intended to explain the details of creation?
   Ecclesiastes 3:11 = No, man cannot fathom or begin to understand what God did
What is the purpose of Genesis 1? = What god … can do the deeds and mighty works You do?
   Deuteronomy 3:24 = To show God’s majesty and supreme power & love

Man (Genesis 2)

What was the last thing that God created? = God created man in His own image …
   Genesis 1:27-28 = Man, the crown of His creation
What does it mean to be created in God's image?
   Ephesians 4:24 = created to be like God in true righteousness & holiness
Does being created in God's image only refer to being righteous and holy?
   Colossians 3:10 = No, also given intelligence

How does the author of Genesis refer to the original perfection and innocence of man?
   Genesis 2:25 = There was no shame because there was no sin
      arom - Hebrew for naked = naked innocence, fully exposed – not just physically
How does the author of Genesis use a play on words to introduce the fall of man story in the next verse?
   Genesis 3:1a = The serpent is called crafty - innocence vs. scheming
      arum - Hebrew for crafty = Closest play in English is nude / shrewd
Satan \((Ezekiel 28)\) - Hebrew for adversary

How did sin enter God's perfect world? = Satan was an archangel, like Michael or Gabriel
Ezekiel 28:12b-13a, 14-16 = Satan got caught up in himself and became wicked

What does Isaiah describe as the reason Satan was driven out?
Isaiah 14:12-15 = Tried to make himself like the Most High - God
Hebrew for morning star was translated as \(Lucifer\) in Latin Vulgate

What did Satan do after being kicked out of God's holy kingdom?
1 Peter 5:8 = Prowls the earth looking for recruits

How did Jesus describe how Satan recruits people into his family and leads the world astray?
John 8:44 = He deceives with lies

Is Satan free to do anything he desires to us?
Job 1:6-9, 11-12 = No, he must get permission and has limits - God is in control

Why is this important for us to understand? = He will provide a way out
1 Corinthians 10:13 = God will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear

What destiny awaits Satan and his recruits?
Ezekiel 28:17-19 = He will be thrown to earth and destroyed for all to see
Revelation 12:7-9; 20:7-10 = ancient serpent called Satan, who leads the world astray

Satan Tempts \((Genesis 3:1-5)\)

How did the crafty serpent begin his effort to turn man away from God? = Did God really say...
Genesis 3:1 = Asked innocent-sounding question leading to doubt & deception

How did the woman play into his game?
Genesis 3:2-3 = She answered, but twisted the truth in response

How did the woman's response twist the truth? = Adding to God's rules confuses God to us
Genesis 2:16-17 = Only prevented from eating, didn't command against touching

How did the father of lies twist things further in the woman's mind?
Genesis 3:4-5 = Questioned God's motive behind the command & its true consequence

The Fall \((Genesis 3:6)\)

How did Eve respond to this deception? = Agreed with Satan's rationale, took and ate
Genesis 3:6a = good for food, pleasing to the eye, desirable for gaining wisdom

How does this fit with John's description of sin in today's world? = directly correlates
1 John 2:16 = cravings, lust of eyes, boasting of what he has and does

How upset was Adam when he learned what this woman had done?
Genesis 3:8b = He also ate, without objection - Note: He was with her

Knowledge of Guilt \((Genesis 3:7-11)\)

Were their eyes opened, knowing good and evil, as Satan had promised? = Diff knowledge
Genesis 3:7 = Yes, Immediately felt the sense of guilt and saw their inadequacies

They were still alive (Adam lived 930 yrs). Was the consequence of death over-exaggerated?
Romans 5:12 = No, by Adam's disobedience, sin & death entered the world for all

How proud were Adam and Eve of this new knowledge?
Genesis 3:8 = Knowing the wrong they had done, they hid in shame

Knowing what had happened, how did God give them the opportunity to confess their sin?
Genesis 3:9-11 = Asked simple questions leading them to recognize their guilt

You can find Bible Stories for Adults on the web at www.biblestoriesforadults.com
Human Nature  
*Genesis 3:12-13*

Faced with the fact that God knew what happened, did Adam confess?
- Genesis 3:12 = Blamed the evil woman & blamed God for making the woman
- Did Eve respond any better? = Like Flip Wilson’s “The devil made me do it”
  - Genesis 3:13 = No, she passed the blame to the serpent

Judgment  
*Genesis 3:14-20*

Beginning in reverse order, what judgment did God have for the crafty serpent?
- Genesis 3:14 = From honored position to most despised, under everything
- Besides being unable to walk, what else was carried in the curse of crawling on its belly?
  - Leviticus 11:41-43 = Considered the lowest, most detestable, most unclean

What judgment did God have for the woman?
- Genesis 3:16 = Great pains in childbirth, dominated by strength & drive of man

How was this domination by man first visible?
- Genesis 3:20 = Adam named her, the ability to name denotes ownership

What judgment did God have for the man, the one to whom He had given the command?
- Genesis 3:17-19 = Work would now be difficult, will die as a result of sin

Promise of Grace  
*Genesis 3:15*

Besides allowing mankind to live long enough to be fruitful, how did God show His grace?
- Genesis 3:15 = First Messianic Prophesy (Promise of a Savior)
  - *I will put enmity between you and the woman* = Natural hatred where had been allies
  - *and between your offspring and hers* = Satan’s legions, humans & Jesus Christ
  - *He will crush your head* = Jesus Christ - Note the singular form
  - *and you will strike his heel* = Satan will attack Christians (Satan is head of his legions)

Was this promise of grace only given to mankind?
- Romans 8:19-21 = No, it was for all of creation

Grace Displayed  
*Genesis 3:21-24*

How did God show His grace towards the shame that Adam and Eve felt?
- Genesis 3:21 = He clothed them (skins); covering guilt required sacrifice (sin leads to death)

What other act of God's grace is recorded in this story?
- Genesis 3:22-24 = Kicked them out of garden to prevent from eating of tree of life

How is this grace? It sounds like punishment being kicked out of paradise.
- Matthew 25:46 = They would have lived forever in guilt and shame - hell on earth

Is this tree of life still around?
- Revelation 2:7 = It is waiting us in heaven, we will eat and enter paradise then
Sacrificial Giving  (Genesis 4:1-7)

Which of Adam & Eve’s many children do we learn about in the next story?
- Genesis 4:1-2  =  The first - Cain (sounds like Hebrew for acquired), Abel (Hebrew for breath)
What do we learn about their relationships with God?
- Genesis 4:3-5  =  Abel offered first fruits, Cain gave when he had extra
Was God displeased with Cain’s offering since it wasn’t an animal sacrifice?
- Hebrews 11:4  =  No, but because it wasn’t given out of faith
Did God explain this to Cain?
- Genesis 4:6-7  =  Yes - not accepted because sin is in the way

Sin, Judgment, Grace  (Genesis 4:8-16)

How did Cain deal with his jealousy?
- Genesis 4:8  =  Killed Abel
Knowing what had happened, how did God give Cain the opportunity to confess his sin?
- Genesis 4:9-10  =  Asked where his brother was,  Presented sin when Cain acted dumb
What judgment did God have for Cain?
- Genesis 4:11-12  =  Kicked off his property, would have trouble raising crops, restless wanderer
How did God show His grace to Cain?
- Genesis 4:13-16  =  Protected his life with a mark

Sons of Cain  (Genesis 4:17-26)

How does this story of murder relate to our lives?  We would never even think of murder, right?
- 1 John 3:12, 15  =  Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer
How did Cain’s character continue in his descendants?
- Genesis 4:17-19  =  4 generations later, Lamech was a polygamist
- Genesis 4:23-24  =  Lamech was also a murderer and wrongly expected God’s grace

Closing Prayer

Response

1. How do I see Satan at work in my life deceiving me into sin?
2. When do I find myself doing things that I do not want to do?
   (Romans 7:15-25; Matthew 26:31-35, 69-75; James 1:13-15)
3. What sin plagues me where I need to look to God for the way out He promised to provide?
   (Luke 11:4; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Peter 2:4-9)
4. How have consequences of my actions become apparent as God’s judgment for my sins?
   (Joshua 7:10-13, 20-26; Romans 6:21, 23; 1 Timothy 6:9-10)
5. How has God shown His grace to me despite my undeserving sinful nature?
   (Job 3:27-28; Ezra 9:13; Romans 4:1-3 [Joshua 24:2-4]; Romans 6:22)

Next Week  -  The Flood and The Tower of Babel  (Genesis 5 - 11)