

Bible Stories for Adults

The Fall Into Sin

Genesis 3-4

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

arum - 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*

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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
- How does John describe this in his book on the last days? = cast to earth, destroyed by fire
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 3:6b = 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

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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 Prophecy (Promise of a Savior)

I will put enmity between you and the woman = Natural hatred where had been allies
and between your offspring = Satan's legions
and hers = humans and Jesus Christ

He = Jesus Christ - Note the singular form

will crush your head = Christ will destroy Satan (Satan is head of his legions)

and you will strike his heel = Satan will attack Christians (Heel is Christ's body)

Was this promise of grace only given to mankind? = *creation waits in eager expectation*

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? = reminder of sin

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

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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? = *Nod* is Hebrew for *wandering*

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 (compare 2:24) = 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?
(*Luke 4:1-13; 22:40; 2 Corinthians 2:10-11; Galatians 6:16-21; 1 Peter 5:8*)
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)