

Genesis

Memorize the TRUTH!

Lesson 2 The Fellowship and Fall of Man Genesis 2:4-3:24

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.
Genesis 3:15

The Garden of Eden — Genesis 2:4-17

Day 1

1. What kind of home did the Lord provide for the first man?
2. a. What assignment did God give the man at this time?

b. What does this tell you about our need for meaningful activity?
3. a. What one thing in the garden did God say was “off limits”?

b. What restrictions do you live with in your life? In what way are these restrictions good?

Learn the TRUTH!



Adam and Eve lived in a perfect world, yet they still made a bad choice. Jesus came to live in a world full of sin and yet remained sinless. Ask the Lord this week to help you see sin and temptation for what they are so you can resist the devil — he will flee when you resist with God’s help (James 4:7)!

Man and Woman — Genesis 2:18-25

Day 2

4. Even though Adam lived in a perfect environment, what did God say was missing in his life?
5. The Hebrew word translated *helper* in Genesis 2:18 is also found in the verses below. To whom does this word refer in these verses?
Psalm 33:20

Psalm 70:5
6. In light of Genesis 2:24, why do you think divorce is so painful for people?

Bad Choices
Genesis 3:1-7

Day 3

7. According to Revelation 12:9, who spoke through the serpent in this passage?
8. a. What tactics did the tempter use to make the forbidden fruit seem so desirable?

b. Give an example of how he uses these same tactics today.
9. Read 1 John 2:15-17.
 - a. What desires did the forbidden fruit stir up?

b. How can we guard against these same things controlling us?

The Blame Game
Genesis 3:8-13

Day 4

10. a. What were the first results of sin for Adam and Eve?

b. What did they do?
11. What do you think is the significance of God seeking them?
12. a. Who did Adam blame for his sin?

b. Who did Eve blame?
13. What are some ways we try to shift the blame when we sin and get caught?

Life After Eden
Genesis 3:14-24

Day 5

14. What should we all do as quickly as possible when we know that we've sinned?
15. What did the curse God pronounced against the serpent refer to? Hebrews 2:14-15
16. How has Adam and Eve's sin had an impact on the world today?
17. What did God do in Genesis 3:21? What does this action foreshadow? John 1:29

Live the TRUTH!

Does it strike you as odd that God called "Where are you?" (3:9) to Adam and Eve in the Garden after they had deliberately disobeyed? What is your relationship with God? Are you in rebellion — either openly or secretly — against a holy God? Are you trying to hide from Him, hoping He won't notice an action or an attitude that is absolutely unacceptable to Him? God knows where you are in your spiritual pilgrimage. Be honest with Him — and with yourself.

Commentary Genesis Lesson 2

Genesis chapters 2 and 3 focus how sin spoiled the ideal life of the first people. In chapter 2, God forms man from dust and breathes life into Adam. To provide a place for Adam and Eve, God “planted a garden in the east” (2:8) — the setting for mankind’s moral test. God planted only one restricted tree in the middle of the garden to give His creatures every advantage. By contrast, Jesus was tested in a desolate wilderness, yet with entirely different results.

The name Eden was given to the garden’s region, which lay at the headwaters of four rivers. The names of two of these streams, the Tigris and the Euphrates, appear on modern maps in the Mesopotamian Valley (modern Iraq). However, these present-day rivers do not join at their sources. Even more confusing, the other streams are absent from both ancient and more recent maps. It is likely that the Flood altered earth’s topography, and attempts to locate the original Garden of Eden will prove fruitless.

Adam lived in close fellowship with God, but his moral condition had not been tested. That test emerges here in the form of a tree, “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” (2:17). It alone is off-limits for mankind. The results of violating that restriction are serious: Death would result.

God recognized man’s one great lack in Eden and saw that it was “not good for the man to be alone” (2:18). Spouses would fulfill the need for companionship and encouragement. From man’s side, God then fashions a woman to serve as Adam’s mate, to be cherished and treasured as a partner. The principle is clear: God is the One who ordained marriage, and the marriage bond is God’s chosen means of human fulfillment.

Misery and destruction now enter human experience through a serpent, which serves as the vehicle for Satan — the real villain. Satan questions God’s goodness: “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” (Genesis 3:1b). According to Satan, if God really cared about them, He would want them to share in the bounty of all His trees. Eve expands God single command and adds words that God never spoke: “You must not touch it” (Genesis 3:3). Scripture declares the danger of adding to and subtracting from God’s commandments (Deuteronomy 4:2; Revelation 22:18-19). Satan then challenges God’s righteousness, “You will not surely die” (Genesis 3:4). The enemy of souls still uses this line of reasoning today.

Adam and Eve do not succumb to the temptation in full rebellion. They simply want more than they have, and they especially want to be like God. Since that time, humanity has been repeating this pattern of being independent from God, but God can give His creatures nothing better than Himself. Instead of becoming wise, they bring disaster, sin, and misery into the world.

Check It Out:

What do we do when we make a mistake? The standard procedure for explaining our failure is to look for something or someone else to blame. Adam and Eve made a bad choice in a perfect environment. Jesus made a good choice in a difficult environment. God holds *us* responsible for our choices.

God deals with the first couple in grace, wooing them back to Himself in godly sorrow and repentance. First, He reminds them about the penalties for their sin. Adam lays the blame for his sin on Eve and, indirectly, on God Himself. God also confronts her to establish her part in the event. Eve speaks truthfully (though incompletely) in her defense: The enemy duped her (1 Timothy 2:14). While she ate the forbidden fruit first, God holds Adam accountable for transgression, because he knew what he was doing. Eve passes the responsibility on to the serpent (Genesis 3:13).

God now pronounces judgment on these three creatures. The lowest physical posture — crawling — reflects the serpent's part in bringing sin into the world. However, God will one day bring a Human Being into the world who will deal with Satan. The tempter will strike Him a dangerous, but temporary blow to the heel. The Redeemer, on the other hand, will crush Satan's head and finally defeat him. Eve can expect a life that includes pain, especially in childbearing. Another part of the penalty is found in the words, "Your desire will be for your husband." Not just sexual, this is a desire to dominate, as its use in Genesis 4:7 makes clear. Before she fell, Eve was content in her marriage. Now, although she may want to dominate her mate, he will often exercise his will over her, and not always in a way that benefits her. The battle of the sexes is part of the sad results of humanity's rebellion.

God's pronouncement against Adam involves not only the man, but also the very ground itself. Carefully note that work forms no part of the divine curse. God told Adam to cultivate and tend the garden *before* the Fall. Work is part of God's blessing, but after man's rebellion, labor becomes inefficient. Thorns, thistles, and sweat become part of human experience. Above all looms the shadow of death. Because of the Fall, mankind will suffer the penalty God has foretold.

In place of the fig-leaf garments they had devised, God gives them garments of skin. This new clothing requires the death of a sacrificial animal. While He was completing such an action, the Lord likely explained how atonement requires a substitutionary death — a principle that carries through the entire Bible.

The more pressing issue at the moment is the necessity of excluding Adam and Eve from the garden. They still have access to the Tree of Life if they stay in Eden, which would give them the ability to live forever in their fallen condition (3:22), effectively destroying any hope of redemption. To make doubly sure that the couple cannot re-enter the garden, God places special angels, called *cherubs*, and a flaming sword to block the entrance to mankind's original home. God displays His grace by not allowing their condition to become permanent.



The consequences of Adam and Eve's sin are overwhelming. Their spiritual death brought separation from fellowship with God and banishment from the Garden of Eden. These consequences far outweighed any momentary pleasure Adam and Eve might have felt in biting into that luscious fruit. Satan is a master at hooking us with his inviting deception!

Sin always divides and separates. Most especially it banishes us from the Eden of fellowship with the Savior. Nothing is worth that! When temptation comes, join the Psalmist in his prayer: "Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked" (Psalm 84:10).



How does that first sacrifice in Genesis 3:21 foreshadow the substitutionary death of Jesus?

Hebrews 9:11-22