

# The Fall

## GENESIS 3–5

### **FIRST DAY:** Introduction

Temptation is something every person is familiar with. It is the enticement to do something that violates what we know to be right, good, or in the best interest of ourselves and others. Sometimes we resist, yet sometimes we succumb; the consequences, more often than not, prove disastrous. Understanding the source of temptation, its false promises, and its appeal to our nature is part and parcel of learning to resist it.

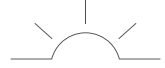
Genesis 3 records what is commonly called *The Fall*. It is the tragic story of how God's *good* creation fell from its original perfection and goodness through man's sin and disobedience. Genesis 3 answers the questions of why things are wrong in the world, and why things go wrong in life. When man disobeyed God, tragic consequences ensued and worked death, corruption, sorrow, pain, and decay into God's creation. It is because of this fall, the curse of sin, and man's inability to resist sin, that a Savior was needed. Although God covered Adam and Eve's nakedness with the skin of an innocent animal, the sin of all mankind would necessitate a greater and eternal covering through the blood of Jesus Christ. The first glimpse of God's redemptive work through Jesus was given in Genesis 3:15 when God promised that the *seed* of the woman would crush the serpent's head—this crushing took place on the cross.

The account of the fall is not meant to cause us to blame Adam and Eve but to recognize our own susceptibility to sin and need of a Savior. Jesus has crushed the serpent's head, and now He is working to bring about regeneration and perfection in our lives. Because of Jesus, we can live in the hope that creation will one day be restored to the good and perfect intentions of God.

*Ask God to help you see your own susceptibility to temptation and need for Jesus.*

**SECOND DAY:** Read Genesis 3:1–6

1. Genesis 3 records the fall of man and the entrance of sin into the world. Genesis 3:1a tells us that the agent of man’s temptation to sin was *the serpent*, who *was more cunning than any beast*. Use the following verses to discover and remark on the true identity and character of this *serpent*:
  - a. John 8:44
  
  - b. 1 Peter 5:8
  
  - c. 1 John 3:8
  
  - d. Revelation 12:9–10
  
2. The *serpent* initiated a conversation with the *woman*. Use Genesis 3:1b–5 to note and comment on how the *serpent* sought to undermine:
  - a. God’s Word (verse 2)
    - (1) Compare Eve’s response to the *serpent* (Genesis 3:3) with God’s original prohibition (Genesis 2:16–17). What differences do you detect?




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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**


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*From the beginning, Satan has tried to undermine God's people by undermining God's Word.<sup>3</sup>*

—Pastor David Guzik

- b. God's power (verse 4)
  - c. God's character (verse 5)
3. From Genesis 3:6a, note and comment on the three reasons that convinced Eve to eat the fruit.
- a.
  - b.
  - c.
- (1) Share a way you would have liked to caution Eve.
4. According to Genesis 3:6b, what did Eve do after she *ate* the fruit?
- a. How did Adam respond?
- (1) What does this convey to you about disobedience and sin?

5. Eve did not realize the dangerous character or wiles of her tempter when she conversed with him. Suggest some ways you can recognize Satan's temptations and resist them (See James 4:7).

**THIRD DAY:** Read Genesis 3:7–13

1. List the consequences that resulted from Adam and Eve's disobedience:
  - a. Genesis 3:7

(1) How does this expose the fallacy of the serpent's promise in Genesis 3:4–5?

- b. Genesis 3:8

- c. Genesis 3:9–10

(1) What do you find most tragic about these consequences?



**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

*Man died spiritually the moment he ate. That is the reason he ran away from God. That is the reason he sewed fig leaves for a covering.<sup>4</sup>*

—Pastor J. Vernon McGee

2. Use Genesis 3:11 to write the two probing questions God asked Adam:

a.

b.

(1) Why do you think Adam's awareness of his nakedness was proof of his disobedience?

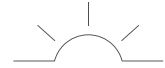
(a) Share a way sin makes you vulnerable.

3. How has your study today increased your appreciation for our sinless Savior?

**FOURTH DAY:** Read Genesis 3:14–24

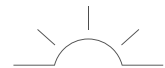
1. Sadly, mankind's sin brought about tragic consequences. Use Genesis 3:14–19 to cite and remark on the consequences of sin:

a. On the *serpent* (verses 14–15)



#### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Recall that *the LORD God called to Adam* and asked where he was (Genesis 3:9). Dr. W.H. Griffith Thomas says of this, *It is the call of Divine justice, which cannot overlook sin. It is the call of Divine sorrow, which grieves over the sinner. It is the call of Divine love, which offers redemption for sin.*<sup>5</sup>



#### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

*It is interesting that it was by a tree that man lost his fellowship with God, and the cross of Jesus Christ, the tree upon which He was crucified, is the door that can lead a man back to God.*<sup>6</sup>

—Pastor Chuck Smith

(1) Pastor Warren Wiersbe points out that verse 15 is called *the protoevangelium* (“*the first Gospel*”), because [it is] *the first announcement of the coming Redeemer found in the Bible. To the Old Testament covenant people, this verse was a beacon of hope; to Satan, it was God’s declaration of war climaxing in his condemnation; and to Eve, it was the assurance that she was forgiven and that God would use a woman to bring the Redeemer into the world.*<sup>7</sup> Link this with the following Scriptures and share your thoughts:

(a) Romans 16:20

(b) Colossians 2:14–15

(c) Hebrews 2:14–15

(2) The word *enmity* in Hebrew means *hatred and hostility*. What does this suggest to you about spiritual warfare?

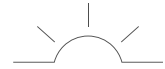
b. Upon the *woman* (verse 16)

c. For Adam (verses 17–19)

(1) Share a few ways the consequences of man's sin explain the fallen condition of our world today.

2. From Genesis 3:20, remark on why Adam named his wife *Eve*.

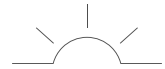
a. Genesis 3:21 informs us that in order for God to clothe Adam and Eve sufficiently an animal had to be sacrificed. How do you see this as a foreshadowing of what God would accomplish through Jesus? See also Hebrews 9:22 and 1 John 1:7.



### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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Now that death entered the world through sin, the seed of the woman that was unfertilized would die monthly. The fertilized seed of the woman would bring forth life, with pain and discomfort, into a world cursed by death.



### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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Note that God, in His mercy, did not curse Adam and Eve. Instead, they suffered the consequences of their sin. However, the earth and Satan were cursed for the sake of man.

3. According to Genesis 3:22–24, what did God do to prevent Adam and Eve from eating of the *tree of life* and living *forever* in the condition of sin and death?
  - a. How do you see this as a mercy?
  
4. As we see in Genesis 3:15, from the beginning God had a plan for mankind’s redemption from sin. Read the following Scriptures to remark on this plan:
  - a. Romans 5:14–19
  
  - b. 1 Peter 1:19–20

**FIFTH DAY:** Read Genesis 4

1. Immediately after they left the Garden of Eden, the consequences of sin began to manifest. Adam and Eve gave birth to their first son, Cain. At his birth Eve said, *I have acquired a man from the Lord* (Genesis 4:1). In Hebrew, this implies that Eve hoped Cain was the promised *seed* of Genesis 3:15 that would break the curse of sin. What do you find interesting about this?



2. After Cain, Eve gave birth to *his brother Abel* (Genesis 4:2a). Use Genesis 4:2b–5a to compare and contrast the two boys in the chart below:

	<b>CAIN</b>	<b>ABEL</b>
<i>Occupation</i> (verse 2b)		
<i>Offering</i> (verses 3–4a)		
<i>God's Perspective</i> (verses 4b–5a)		

- a. Read Hebrews 11:4 to understand and comment on the true distinction between Cain and Abel and their offerings.

3. Cain was *very angry* that God did not *respect* his offering (Genesis 4:5b). Genesis 4:6–7 (NLT) says, “*Why are you so angry?*” the LORD asked Cain. “*Why do you look so dejected? You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.*”  
 What does this reveal to you about:

a. Cain

b. God

c. Sin

4. Tragically, Cain did not heed God’s warning and *killed* his brother Abel (Genesis 4:8). Use Genesis 4:9–15 to remark on the following from Cain’s encounter with God:

a. God’s probing questions (verses 9a, 10)

b. Cain’s evasion (verse 9b)

c. Cain’s consequences (verses 11–12)

- d. Cain's self-concern (verses 13–14)
  
  - e. God's mercy (verse 15)
5. At this point Cain *went out from the presence of the LORD* and into the land of Nod (Genesis 4:16). Genesis 4:17–24 records some of Cain's descendants. Use this record to find a few of the effects of leaving the *presence of the LORD*.
6. According to Genesis 4:25–26a, what took place with Adam and Eve after the death of Abel?
- a. What hope entered the world after the birth of Seth's son Enosh? Genesis 4:26b
- (1) Link this with Proverbs 18:10 and share why this is a good reason for hope.

**SIXTH DAY:** Read Genesis 5, Review

1. From Genesis 5:1–2, what declaration is restated concerning God's original creation of Adam and Eve?
  - a. How does God's original intent contrast with the present fallen state of mankind?
  
2. Scan the *genealogy of Adam* and his descendants in Genesis 5:3–32, and record any observations.
  
  
3. In Genesis 5:21–24 Enoch is given particular attention. Link this with Hebrews 11:5 and Jude 14–15 to further comment on Enoch's significance.
  - a. How do you see God's mercy at work in spite of the consequences of sin?

4. While Genesis 3–5 documents the beginning of sin and its effect upon the world, it also offers us the beginning of God’s mercy and hope for mankind. From your study this week, share a way you see God’s mercy displayed in the lives of:
  - a. Adam
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Eve
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Cain
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - d. Seth
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - e. Enoch
  
5. What did this week’s study reveal to you about Our Great Creator?