

# The First Sin

Session 3 • Genesis 3:1-7,21-24



## ENGAGE

**PREPARE:** Prior to the session, post or display photos of children. On the board, write: *Identify in five to seven words a recent example you observed of a child doing something wrong that required punishment.*

**INTRODUCE:** As the group arrives, direct attention to the photos and the question on the board. Encourage the group to write responses on the board. After several minutes, review the responses and discuss some of them.

**ASK: When and why is punishment required for children? What is the intended goal of punishment?**

**EMPHASIZE:** Direct attention to Understand the Context on page 29 summarize the main theme of Genesis 3.

**PREPARE:** Display **Pack Item 2** (*Poster: Outline of Genesis 1-19*) on a focal wall. Review the title and theme of the previous sessions and introduce the title and theme for this session.

**READ:** Read aloud the opening paragraph on page 29. Allow a few volunteers to share how they would feel in that situation—or felt if a similar situation actually happened to them.

**ASK: In what ways was God's good creation marred by humanity's sin?** (p. 29)

**TRANSITION:** *As you study the verses in this session, consider what God reveals about Himself concerning human sin.*

## EXPLORE THE TEXT

**GUIDE:** Review **Pack Item 7** (*Handout: Genesis Time Line*) to set the context for these verses. Supplement the discussion using **Pack Item 8** (*Handout: Background of Genesis*).

**READ: Invite a volunteer to read aloud Genesis 3:1-5**, as the group listens for the temptation the serpent presented.

**LIST:** Lead the group to identify the three things the serpent said and write them on the board. (See verses 1, 4, and 5.) Lead the group to compare the serpent's question in Genesis 3:1 with what God actually said in Genesis 2:16-17. Talk about the motivations behind Satan's questions and the nature of Eve's response.

- **(3:2-3)** The first words out of the serpent's mouth (and the first question asked in the Bible) cast doubt on the truthfulness of God. Satan dishonestly implied that God had restricted every tree in the garden.

Satan knows that if he can plant a seed of doubt about God’s goodness or the validity of His words, he has a much better chance of leading individuals into sin. Of course, that is not what God said. He had said Adam and Eve could eat freely of all the trees but one. God was expressing great care and generosity. Satan, on the other hand, was picturing God in a negative light, suggesting He was harsh and restrictive

**ASK: How are Satan’s tactics today similar to his tactics in Eden?** (p. 31) Point out that he hasn’t really changed because he still leads people to doubt God’s words and to seek their own pleasure.

**TRANSITION:** *As Eve began thinking about the serpent’s argument, she also began to look at the fruit differently.*

**READ: Call for a volunteer to read aloud Genesis 3:6-7**, directing the group to listen for how the woman and the man both fell in sin.

**ASK: How can we be led into sin by the appeal of something or someone?**

**GUIDE:** Place the group into two smaller teams. (*Note: For larger groups, you can place adults in an even number of teams and more than one team can work on the same assignment.*) Instruct the first team to review Genesis 3:6 and determine what led to the fall. Instruct the second group to review Genesis 3:7 to identify the immediate impact of the fall. After a few minutes, allow the teams to report on their discoveries.

- **(3:6)** While Eve was deceived by the words of the serpent, Adam was not (see 1 Tim. 2:14). Instead, he willfully disobeyed God and doubted God’s trustworthiness. Some Bible scholars see an element of pride in the fall of Eve and Adam. There was the desire to be more than they were created to be. They wanted to be equal with God.
- **(3:7)** Before choosing to disobey God, Adam and Eve knew complete innocence. There was no awareness of their nakedness. However, when they violated God’s directive concerning the forbidden fruit, they suddenly discovered how vulnerable they were. Their act of self-centeredness and their desire to be like God carried an immediate impact on their relationship with Him and with each other. The trust and security they had shared was replaced by fear, guilt, and shame.

**DISCUSS: What is the appeal of something that promises to make a person wise?** (p. 31)

**TRANSITION:** *The man and the woman were only beginning to recognize the depth and repercussions of their sin.*

**READ: Call for the group to read silently Genesis 3:21-24**, looking for how God extended grace to the man and the woman.

**MINI-LECTURE:** Present a brief overview of Genesis 3:8-20, highlighting the consequences of Adam and Eve’s sin described in verses 17-19, as well as the promise of the Messiah/Redeemer in verse 15.

- **(3:8-20)** These verses recount the confrontation between God and the guilty couple. Within these verses we find the excuses Adam and Eve provided for their disobedience, the cursing of the serpent and the ground, and the consequences of disobedience. Note that only the serpent and the ground are cursed. The consequences for Adam and Eve were hardship in the labor of childbirth and hardship in the labor of tilling the ground. Even so, God gave a ray of hope with His promise of a coming deliverer (v. 15) and the merciful provision of covering for Adam and Eve.

**EXAMINE:** Distribute copies of **Pack Item 10** (*Handout: Covenants in Genesis*) and point out the Adamic covenant.

**ASK: What is the key to the Adamic covenant?** Emphasize that God takes all sin seriously, but He also offers grace. Use verses 22-24 to highlight God’s gracious response to Adam and Eve in providing both forgiveness for their sin and clothing for their nakedness. Highlight His spiritual and physical provision.

**TRANSITION:** *It’s important to recognize that Satan is a real enemy who is out to keep believers from walking in close relationship with God. He will do whatever he can to keep us from what God has for us. Thankfully, God is stronger than Satan, so we can always find hope in Him.*

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## CHALLENGE

**SUMMARIZE:** Review these points from this week’s Bible passage:

- Satan is crafty and is actively looking for ways to deceive.
- The promises that accompany temptation lead to brokenness.
- God offers grace in the middle of our rebellion against Him.

**DISCUSS:** Guide the group to discuss the ways being part of a Bible study group helps guard against Satan’s attacks. Ask: **Where do you feel most vulnerable to Satan’s attacks? How can the group pray for you?**

**EMPHASIZE:** Stress that God immediately demonstrated His grace to Adam and Eve by making them clothing from animal skins and anticipated what He would do through the person and work of Jesus. Use the Plan of Salvation on the inside front cover of this resource to briefly walk through the gospel. Encourage individuals who have not come to faith in Christ to consider embracing His gift of salvation through Christ. Emphasize that His blood covers all our sins, unlike the animal that was sacrificed to provide clothing for Adam and Eve.

**PRAY:** Close in prayer, thanking God for His gift of grace—especially when we sin.

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## AFTER THE SESSION

Reinforce the session by emailing group members to encourage them in their walk with God. Challenge them to be mindful of any sin that is marring their fellowship with Him.