

Unit 1, Session 1: God Created the World

Big Picture Question: Who is God? God is our Creator and the King of everything.

Memory Verse: Psalm 104:24— How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Christ Connection: Adam and Eve sinned when they rejected God's good plan and disobeyed His command. Sin separates people from God, but God didn't leave them without hope. God sent His Son Jesus to live as Adam didn't—perfectly sinless. God the Son came to earth as a man to rescue people from sin.

Bible Passage: Genesis 2-3

Find the passages together in your Bibles and read through them together. You could also read the paraphrase of all these passages below in blue. For younger kids, you may want to just read the bolded portions.

The result of sin is destruction. Always. The primary target of sin's sting is the relationship between God and man. When this falls apart, all other relationships go with it. We see this as the serpent twists the truth of God's Word just enough to undermine the woman's confidence in Him. The first attack is on the integrity of God's Word: "Did God really say..." (Gn 3:1). As she engages with the serpent, the woman twists God's words herself by adding a command: "you must not eat it *or touch it*" (3:2). Next, the serpent directly contradicts God and accuses Him of selfishly withholding good from the man and the woman: "No! You will not die. [...] In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (3:5). She trusted the word of the serpent over God's and disobeyed along with her husband, "who was with her" (3:6). Immediately, disobedience opened their eyes to the reality of sin and instantly destroyed their relationship with God.

As the rest of the account plays out, the devastating consequences of sin are revealed. The man and the woman die—spiritually, that is—just as God warned. They willingly separated themselves from the source of life, their Creator, the One who breathed life into them. In turn, all other relationships are broken as well. When confronted by God about their disobedience, the man blames God for giving him the woman and the woman blames the serpent for her disobedience (3:8-13). All horizontal relationships dissolve because the tether to the source of life has been severed. The consequences continue with promises of pain, toil, relational strife, and physical death (3:14-19). Yet, even as the man and woman are cast out of the garden, God cares for them. He does not allow them the opportunity to continue eternally in their sin. God graciously guards the Tree of Life, giving them an opportunity for repentance (3:22-24). The one small seed of hope for restoration and redemption is found in 3:15 and the promise of the woman's offspring. A seed that eventually sprouts into the hope found in Jesus.

After God made Adam, He placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it. God commanded him, "You can eat from any tree of the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die."

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals God had made. One day, he asked Adam's wife Eve, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden'?"

Eve said, "We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. But God said we must not eat the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden. He said, 'You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.'"

"No! You will certainly not die," the serpent said. "In fact, God knows that when you eat it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Eve saw that the fruit looked good and she wanted to be wise like God, so she took some of the fruit and ate it. She gave some to Adam, who was with her, and he ate it too. As soon as they ate the fruit, their eyes were opened and they knew they were naked. They made clothes for themselves by sewing together fig leaves.

In the evening, Adam and Eve heard God walking in the garden, so they hid. God called out to Adam, "Where are you?" Adam replied, "I heard You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid." God asked Adam, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" Adam immediately blamed Eve and said, "She gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

Eve blamed the serpent and said, "He deceived me, and I ate." God cursed the serpent by making him crawl on his belly. Adam and Eve also had consequences for their disobedience. Life would be hard and painful, all because of sin. The ultimate consequence for humanity's disobedience to God is death. But God promised that one of the woman's descendants would destroy the serpent.

God was merciful to Adam and Eve. He made clothes for them out of animal skins before He sent them out of the garden. God put angels and a sword of fire at the entrance of the garden to guard the way to the tree of life.

If you or your child have questions about what it looks like to follow Jesus in salvation or baptism, Pastor Sam would love to talk with you! Please feel free to contact him at ssiever@lenexabaptist.com.