GENESIS: THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS · STUDY NOTES

Study 3: The fall

For personal study or groups

Your name

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How to use these notes. Watch each part's video on biblehelp.net, or read the text below. Look up each passage in your own Bible and write the answer on the lines. The verses are printed at the back if you need them. At the end there are questions to think about on your own or to discuss in a group.

📖 **Before you start: read Genesis 3:1–24.** Read it in your own Bible, all the way through, before the videos. Then in this study we go through it together, a few verses at a time. (About 4 minutes.)

PART 1

Did God really say?

Genesis 3:1–7

Genesis 3 is one of the most important chapters in the whole Bible. It tells us why the world is not the way God made it, where sin and shame and death came from, and why we are the way we are. And on the darkest day in the history of the world, God gave the first promise of a Saviour.

1. The serpent. He is one of the creatures "that the LORD God had made". He is not a second god, as old as the Creator: there is only one God, and He alone is eternal. Evil is not as old as God, and it will not last for ever. But this was no ordinary snake. The rest of the Bible tells us who was speaking: "that ancient serpent called the devil and Satan" (Revelation 12:9). The Lord Jesus called him "a murderer from the beginning" and "the father of lies" (John 8:44).

1 **Read Genesis 3:1**

What was the serpent like? What did he ask the woman?

2 **Read Revelation 12:9**

What names does John give to "that ancient serpent"?

2. "Did God really say?" The serpent does not say "Rebel against God". He asks a question, and it puts a doubt in her mind. Then he twists the command. God had said, "You may eat freely from every tree of the garden," except one (Genesis 2:16). The serpent turns God's great "yes" into a great "no". And he never uses the name "the LORD God"; he only says "God", as if the God who walked with them were far away and cold. The devil still works like this: "Can you really trust an old book?" "Did God really mean that for today?"

3. The woman's answer. Compare her words with what God said. "Freely" and "every" are left out. "Or touch it" is added: God never said that. And "you will surely die" is softened to "or you will die". Small changes, but they show the serpent's question was already working. We are not to take away from God's words, and we are not to add to them.

3 **Read Proverbs 30:5–6**

What is every word of God like? What must we not do to His words?

4. "You will not surely die." Now the serpent denies God's word outright, and says God is keeping something good from them. His lies are half-truths. Their eyes were opened, but only to see their shame. They came to know evil, not as the holy Judge knows it, but as sinners who had done it. And "you will be like God"? They already were: "God created man in His own image" (Genesis 1:27). Notice what the serpent attacks: that God's word is true, and that God is good. That is what happens whenever we sin: in that moment we do not believe that God's word is true, or that He is good.

4 **Read Genesis 3:2–5**

What did the woman say God had said? What did the serpent say would happen?

5. The same cunning today. Paul was afraid for Christians, "that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may be led astray from your simple and pure devotion to Christ" (2 Corinthians 11:3). Hold on to what God has said, plainly, and do not let anyone talk you out of it.

5 **Read 2 Corinthians 11:3**

What was Paul afraid of?

6. She looked, she wanted, she took. The tree was "good for food", "pleasing to the eyes", and "desirable for obtaining wisdom". On the other side there was only one thing: God had said no. Sin does not usually begin with the hand. It begins with what we let ourselves look at and think about, until we want it, and then we take it. John names the same three things: "the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, and the pride of life" (1 John 2:16).

6 **Read Genesis 3:6–7**

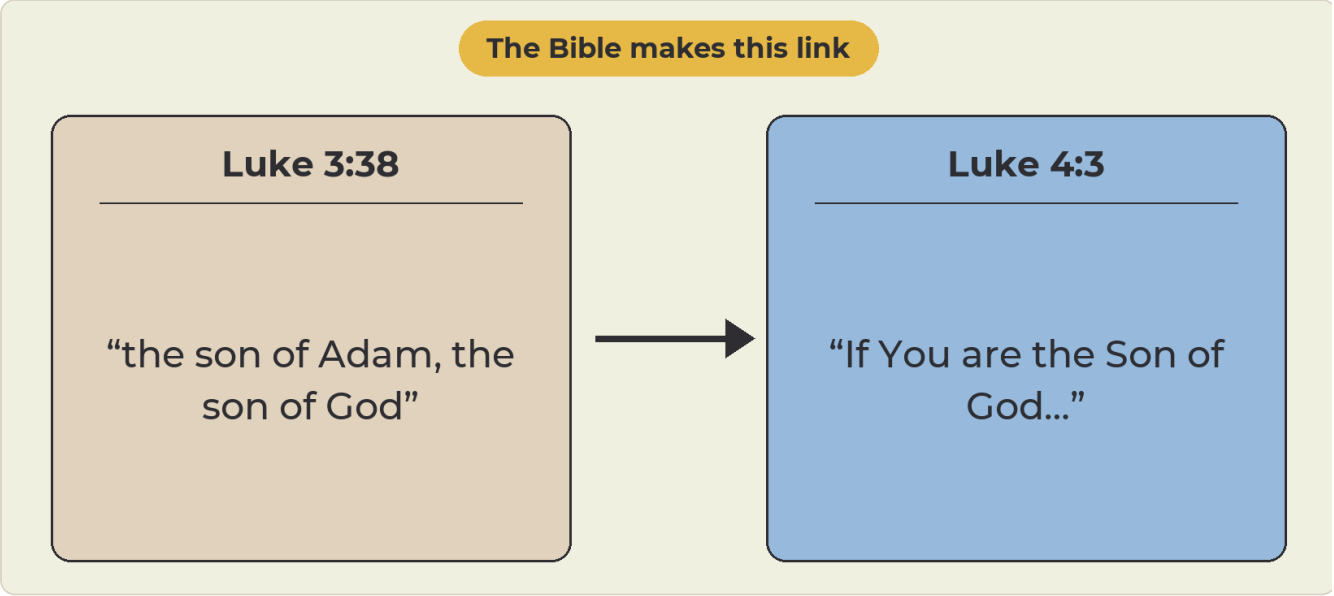
What three things did the woman see about the tree? What did they know when their eyes were opened? What did they make?

7 **Read 1 John 2:16**

What three things does John name? Where do they come from?

7. "Her husband who was with her." The man was there all the time, and he said nothing. He had received the command from God himself, and he had been put in the garden to work it and keep it. He did not stand up for God's word, or for his wife. Then he ate, and he was not deceived: "it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman" (1 Timothy 2:14). That is why God calls the man first, and why the Bible says sin entered the world "through one man".

8. Fig leaves. Their eyes were opened, and for the first time they felt shame, before each other and before God. They covered themselves with fig leaves. But fig leaves could hide their bodies; they could not take away their guilt. They could cover, but not cure. We still sew fig leaves: excuses, good works, a smile on Sunday.



A link the Bible itself makes: Luke ends the family line of Jesus with "the son of Adam, the son of God" (Luke 3:38), and goes straight on to the devil's words to Jesus, "If You are the Son of God..." (Luke 4:3).

9. Where Adam fell, Christ stood. Adam was in a garden, with every tree but one to eat from; Jesus was in a wilderness, hungry after forty days. The devil said to Adam's wife, "Did God really say?"; Jesus answered the devil, "It is written." Adam fell, and all of us fell with him. Jesus stood firm, for His people: He is "the last Adam".

8 **Read Luke 4:1–4**

Where was Jesus tempted, and for how long? What did the devil say? How did Jesus answer?

10. Help when we are tempted. The Lord Jesus "was tempted in every way that we are, yet was without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). So when you are tempted, go to Him for help; and if you have fallen, go to Him for mercy.

9 **Read Hebrews 4:15–16**

How was Jesus tempted? What can we find at the throne of grace?

PART 2

Where are you?

Genesis 3:8–13

1. The LORD God in the garden. "The LORD God walking in the garden in the breeze of the day" (the cool of the evening) is a picture of closeness. Perhaps they had often run to meet Him at that sound. But today it fills them with fear, and they hide among the very trees God had given them. Sin turns the presence of God, which should be our greatest joy, into the thing we fear most.

10 **Read Genesis 3:8**

What did the man and his wife hear? What did they do?

2. They died that day. Was the serpent right, since they were still alive? No. That very day they died in their souls: cut off from God, the source of life, their love turned into fear and their friendship into hiding. And from that day their bodies began to return to the dust. The Bible says the same of each of us by nature: "dead in your trespasses and sins". But it goes on: "God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ" (Ephesians 2:4–5).

11 **Read Ephesians 2:4–5**

What were we, before God made us alive? Why did God make us alive?

3. "Where are you?" God knew where the man was. His question was to make him stop and think. And it is God who comes looking: the man runs away from Him. Left to ourselves we do not seek God (Romans 3:11). Before any word of judgement there is this call: the voice of a judge, but also of a father calling a lost child. And God calls the man first, because he was the head.

12 **Read Genesis 3:9–10**

What did God ask the man? Why did the man say he hid?

13 **Read Luke 19:10**

Why did the Son of Man come?

4. Hiding from God. The man speaks of his fear and his nakedness, not of his sin. And no one can hide from God. People still try: so busy that they never think of God, filling every quiet moment with noise, staying away from church and the Bible, never thinking about death. But God still sees, and still calls.

14 **Read Psalm 139:7–8**

Where can we go to get away from God?

5. Step by step, and no confession. God asks, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree...?" The man blames his wife, and God Himself: "The woman whom You gave me". The woman blames the serpent. Four questions, and not one answer of "I have sinned".

15 **Read Genesis 3:11–13**

Whom did the man blame? Whom did the woman blame?

6. Shame and blame. These are still the oldest ways of dealing with sin. We blame our husband or wife, our parents, the pressure we were under, and even God. Others may tempt us and sin against us, but when we sin, the choice is ours: "each one is tempted when by his own evil desires he is lured away and enticed" (James 1:14).

Shame that is not your fault

Some people carry shame for things that were done to them: they were hurt, used or treated badly. What was done to you is not your sin. God sees, He cares, and He is the judge of those who did it. Christ came to heal the broken-hearted as well as to forgive the guilty. Shame that is ours must be confessed; shame that is not ours can be laid down at His feet.

7. "I have sinned." These are the hardest words to say, and the most important. As long as we hide our sin or blame others, we can never be at peace with God. There are two roads: "He who conceals his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them will find mercy" (Proverbs 28:13). King David knew both: when he kept silent, it was misery; when he confessed, God forgave.

16 **Read Proverbs 28:13**

What happens to someone who hides his sins? What does someone who confesses them find?

17 **Read Psalm 32:3–5**

What was it like for David while he kept silent? What happened when he confessed?

8. The God who comes looking. In the story Jesus told, a son who had wasted everything came home, and "while he was still in the distance, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son" (Luke 15:20). In the garden, God called out, "Where are you?" He is the same God who runs to meet the sinner who comes home.

18 **Read Luke 15:20–21**

What did the father do when he saw his son? What did the son say?

9. Coming out of hiding. Stop hiding: God already knows. Say it plainly: "I have sinned." And come to Christ, who "endured the cross, scorning its shame" (Hebrews 12:2). "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9): faithful, because He keeps His promise; just, because Christ has paid for those sins.

19 **Read 1 John 1:9**

What must we do? What does God promise to do?

PART 3

Curse, promise and covering

Genesis 3:14–24

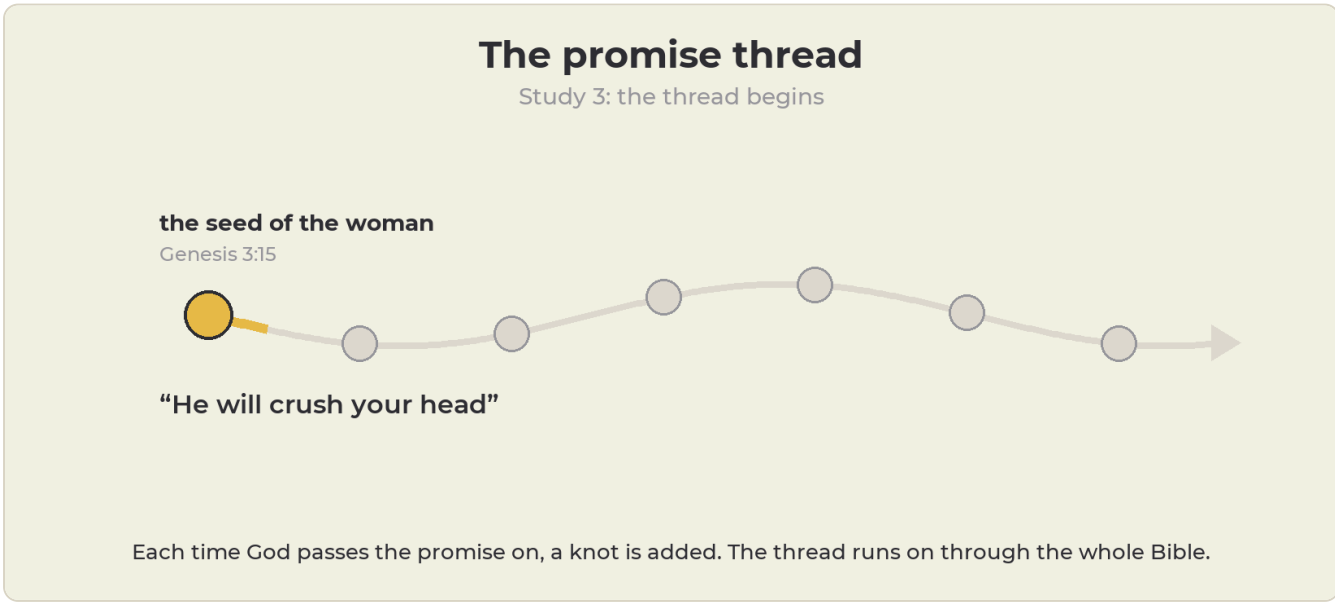
1. To the serpent. God asks the serpent no questions: He pronounces his sentence. "Cursed are you" is said only to the serpent. The ground will be cursed because of the man, but the man and the woman themselves are not cursed: God has a purpose of mercy for them, but not for the devil. To "lick the dust" is a picture of defeat (Psalm 72:9). And mercy comes first: before one word of judgement to the woman or the man, God promises that the serpent will be crushed.

20 **Read Genesis 3:14–15**

What will the serpent eat? What will God put between the serpent and the woman? What will "He" do to the serpent?

2. Two seeds. "Seed" means children, descendants. The serpent's seed are those who side with the devil against God and His people: Jesus said to those plotting to kill Him, "You belong to your father, the devil" (John 8:44). The first of them is Cain, "who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother" (1 John 3:12). The woman's seed are those who belong to God. All through the Bible these two lines run side by side.

3. "He will crush your head." Not "they", but "He": out of all the woman's seed, one Person will come. The serpent will strike His heel: He will suffer. But He will crush the serpent's head: a wound in the heel can be survived; a crushed head is the end. Christians have long called this verse "the first gospel". Adam and Eve were expecting to die, but God speaks of the woman's seed: she will live and have children, and one of them will defeat the enemy.



The promise thread begins: Genesis 3:15, "He will crush your head". As Genesis goes on, a knot is added each time God passes the promise on.

4. The seed of the woman. "God sent His Son, born of a woman" (Galatians 4:4), "so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death, that is, the devil" (Hebrews 2:14). At the cross the serpent struck His heel; at the cross the serpent's head was crushed. The war goes on, but the end is sure: "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet" (Romans 16:20).

21 **Read Hebrews 2:14–15**

Why did the Son of God share our humanity? Whom did He destroy, and whom did He set free?

22 **Read Romans 16:20**

What will the God of peace do soon?

5. To the woman. Pain in bearing children; and yet children: life goes on, and the promised seed will come. "Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you": Christians explain these words in more than one way, but the main point is plain. The harmony of chapter 2 is broken, and the closest of all human relationships, between a husband and his wife, will now be marked by struggle. The gospel begins to heal it: husbands are to love their wives "just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her" (Ephesians 5:25).

6. To Adam. He listened to his wife rather than to God. So the ground is cursed because of him: work becomes toil, with sweat and thorns and thistles. And "dust you are, and to dust you shall return": the sentence of death, passed on to all of us.

23 **Read Genesis 3:16–19**

What did God say to the woman? Why is the ground cursed? Where will the man return at the end?

7. Subjected in hope. Because of man's sin, God "subjected" the creation "to futility": that is why the world is beautiful and yet broken. But it was "in hope": one day the creation will be set free (Romans 8:20–21). Many Christians have noticed that the thorns, the sign of the curse, were twisted into a crown and set on Jesus' head (John 19:2). The Bible tells us plainly what He did: "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us" (Galatians 3:13).

24 **Read Romans 8:20–21**

What was the creation subjected to? What will it be set free from?

8. Eve, and the garments of skin. Under the sentence of death, Adam names his wife Eve, which sounds like the Hebrew word for "life": he believed God's promise. Then "the LORD God

made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and He clothed them" (Genesis 3:21): far better than fig leaves, made and put on by God Himself. For there to be skins, an animal must have died. Genesis says no more, but many Christians have seen here a first picture of what the Bible teaches: "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness" (Hebrews 9:22), and all the sacrifices pointed to "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

25 **Read Genesis 3:20–21**

What name did Adam give his wife, and why? What did God make for them?

26 **Read Isaiah 61:10**

What has God clothed His people with?

9. Banished, in mercy. God sent the man out "lest he reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" (Genesis 3:22). Even in this there is mercy. To live for ever in a body of sin and sorrow, with no way back to God, would be the most terrible thing of all. So God closed the way, not to destroy the man, but to save him from that. He was keeping eternal life for the right time, and for people made new. Cherubim and "a whirling sword of flame" guarded the way to the tree of life: no sinner can find his own way back into God's presence.

27 **Read Genesis 3:22–24**

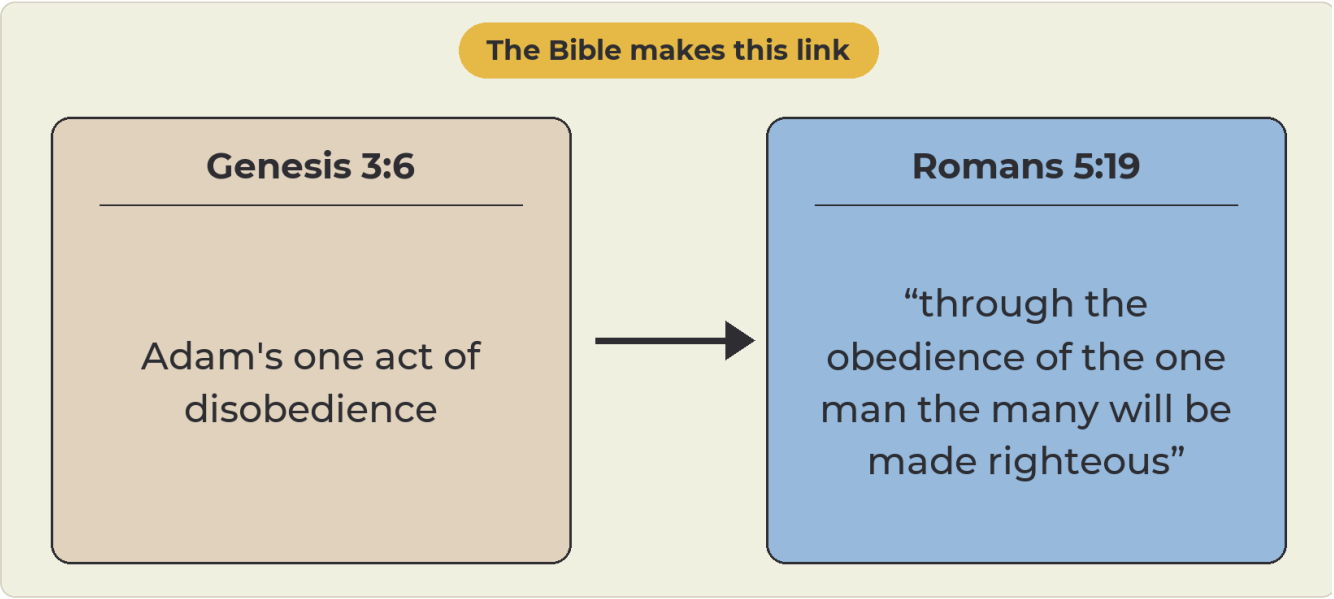
Why did God send the man out of the garden? What guarded the way to the tree of life?

10. The way opened. Later God told Moses to make a veil for the tabernacle "with cherubim skillfully worked into it" (Exodus 26:31). When Jesus died, "the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom" (Matthew 27:51): torn by God. Now we can enter "by the new and living way opened for us through the curtain of His body" (Hebrews 10:20). The sword of God's judgement

against sin fell on Christ, in the place of His people. And on the last page of the Bible: "No longer will there be any curse" (Revelation 22:3), and the tree of life is open to those who wash their robes.

28 **Read Revelation 22:3**

What will there no longer be? Who will be in the city?



A link the Bible itself makes: Adam's one act of disobedience (Genesis 3:6), and "through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous" (Romans 5:19).

11. One man, and One Man. "Through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners": that is Genesis 3. "So also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous": that is the gospel (Romans 5:19). In Adam, we were all lost. In Christ, we can be found.

29 **Read Romans 5:18–19**

What did one trespass bring? What did one act of righteousness bring?

Study 3 in summary

The serpent questioned God's word, then denied it. The woman was deceived, and the man, who was with her, ate with his eyes open. They knew shame, hid from God, and blamed each other. God cursed the serpent and the ground, and gave pain, toil and death. But first He promised that the seed of the woman would crush the serpent's head, and He clothed the man and the woman Himself before He sent them out of the garden. All through the chapter the Bible points us to Christ: the better Adam, the seed of the woman, and the One who opens the way back to the tree of life.

THINK IT THROUGH

Questions for reflection and discussion

1. Where do you hear the question "Did God really say?" today?

2. Which of God's commands are you tempted to think are unkind?

3. What "fig leaves" do people use to cover their sin?

4. How did Jesus answer the devil, and how can you do the same?

5. Why do you think God asked "Where are you?" when He already knew?

6. In what ways do people hide from God today?

7. **Whom, or what, are you tempted to blame for your sins?**

8. **Have you ever said to God, plainly, "I have sinned"?**

9. **Why do you think God spoke the promise of Genesis 3:15 before He spoke to the woman and to the man?**

10. **What does Genesis 3:15 tell you about the Saviour who was to come?**

11. **What did God make for Adam and his wife, and why do they matter?**

12. **Are you still in Adam, or are you in Christ?**

HIDE IT IN YOUR HEART

Memory verse for study 3

Learn this verse by heart this week. Cut out the card and keep it where you will see it.

GENESIS · STUDY 3 · MEMORY VERSE

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Genesis 3:15

Berean Standard Bible · biblehelp.net

“I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You.” (Psalm 119:11, BSB)

AT THE BACK

The Bible passages (BSB)

1 **Genesis 3:1** *Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field that the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"*

2 **Revelation 12:9** *And the great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.*

3 **Proverbs 30:5–6** *5Every word of God is flawless; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. 6Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you and prove you a liar.*

4 **Genesis 3:2–5** *2The woman answered the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden, 3but about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You must not eat of it or touch it, or you will die.'" 4"You will not surely die," the serpent told the woman. 5"For God knows that in the day you eat of it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

5 **2 Corinthians 11:3** *I am afraid, however, that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may be led astray from your simple and pure devotion to Christ.*

6 **Genesis 3:6–7** *6When the woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eyes, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom, she took the fruit and ate it. She also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. 7And the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; so they sewed together fig leaves and made coverings for themselves.*

7 **1 John 2:16** *For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not from the Father but from the world.*

8 **Luke 4:1–4** *1Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2where for forty days He was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He was hungry. 3The devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." 4But Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"*

9 **Hebrews 4:15–16** *15For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who was tempted in every way that we are, yet was without sin. 16Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

10 **Genesis 3:8** *Then the man and his wife heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the breeze of the day, and they hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.*

11 **Ephesians 2:4–5** *4But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved!*

12 **Genesis 3:9–10** *9But the LORD God called out to the man, "Where are you?" 10"I heard Your voice in the garden," he replied, "and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."*

13 **Luke 19:10** *For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."*

14 **Psalm 139:7–8** *7Where can I go to escape Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence? 8If I ascend to the heavens, You are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, You are there.*

15 **Genesis 3:11–13** *11"Who told you that you were naked?" asked the LORD God. "Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" 12And the man answered, "The woman whom You gave me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it." 13Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" "The serpent deceived me," she replied, "and I ate."*

16 **Proverbs 28:13** *He who conceals his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them will find mercy.*

17 **Psalm 32:3–5** *3When I kept silent, my bones became brittle from my groaning all day long. 4For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was drained as in the summer heat. Selah 5Then I acknowledged my sin to You and did not hide my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah*

18 **Luke 15:20–21** *20So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still in the distance, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. 21The son declared, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'*

19 **1 John 1:9** *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

20 **Genesis 3:14–15** *14So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and every beast of the field! On your belly will you go, and dust you will eat, all the days of your life. 15And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."*

21 **Hebrews 2:14–15** *14Now since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity, so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death, that is, the devil, 15and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*

22 **Romans 16:20** *The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

23 **Genesis 3:16–19** *16To the woman He said: "I will sharply increase your pain in childbirth; in pain you will bring forth children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." 17And to Adam He said: "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat, cursed is the ground because of you; through toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. 18Both thorns and thistles it will yield for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. 19By the sweat of your brow you will eat your bread, until you return to the ground—because out of it were you taken. For dust you are, and to dust you shall return."*

24 **Romans 8:20–21** *20For the creation was subjected to futility, not by its own will, but because of the One who subjected it, in hope 21that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.*

25 **Genesis 3:20–21** *20And Adam named his wife Eve, because she would be the mother of all the living. 21And the LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and He clothed them.*

26 **Isaiah 61:10** *I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, my soul will exult in my God; for He has clothed me with garments of salvation and wrapped me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom wears a priestly headdress, as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.*

27 **Genesis 3:22–24** *22Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil. And now, lest he reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever..." 23Therefore the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. 24So He drove out the man and stationed cherubim on the east side of the Garden of Eden, along with a whirling sword of flame to guard the way to the tree of life.*

28 **Revelation 22:3** *No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be within the city, and His servants will worship Him.*

29 **Romans 5:18–19** *18So then, just as one trespass brought condemnation for all men, so also one act of righteousness brought justification and life for all men. 19For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.*

Scripture: Berean Standard Bible (BSB), public domain. Quotations keep its American spelling. Like many English Bibles, it often says 'man', 'he' or 'brothers' where it means people in general, men and women alike.

FOR GROUP LEADERS

Study 3: The fall

> **Memory verse:** “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” (Genesis 3:15). Say it together at the end, and ask who can say it without looking.

Aims

- See from Genesis 3:1–7 how the serpent tempted, by questioning, twisting and then denying God's word; how the woman was deceived and the man, who was with her, ate; and how Christ, the last Adam, stood where Adam fell.
- See from Genesis 3:8–13 how sin makes us hide and blame, how God comes looking for sinners, and why we must say "I have sinned".
- See from Genesis 3:14–24 the curse, the first promise of a Saviour (3:15), God's covering of the man and the woman, and the way back to the tree of life opened in Christ.

Suggested timing (about 115 minutes)

- **5 min** Welcome and short prayer. Ask the group to read Genesis 3 before the meeting.
- **30 min** Part 1 video (15 min); Genesis 3:1–7, with Revelation 12, 2 Corinthians 11, 1 John 2, Luke 4 and Hebrews 4.
- **30 min** Part 2 video (13 min); Genesis 3:8–13, with Ephesians 2, Psalm 139, Proverbs 28, Psalm 32 and Luke 15.
- **45 min** Part 3 video (21 min); Genesis 3:14–24, with Hebrews 2, Romans 16, Romans 8, Isaiah 61, Hebrews 10 and Romans 5.
- **5 min** Reflection questions. Close in prayer, thanking God for His promise and for Christ.

For most groups, take one part each week. If you do, read the passage for that part aloud together before the video.

Tips

- Keep the main point in view: Genesis 3 explains why the world and we are as we are, but its brightest light is God's mercy: He comes looking, He promises a Saviour, and He clothes the sinners Himself.
- Some may ask where the devil came from. The study says only what the Bible says: everything God made was very good, and the devil seems to be an angel who rebelled. Do not let speculation take over the meeting.
- The study says plainly that Adam was with his wife and said nothing, and that God calls the man first because he was the head (1 Timothy 2:14). It says nothing about men and women today; keep the discussion on the text.
- Genesis 3:16 ("desire … rule") is explained in more than one way among Christians. The study gives the main point only: the harmony of chapter 2 is broken, and the gospel begins to heal it (Ephesians 5:25). If the question comes up, answer gently and return to that point.
- Part 2 has a word for those who carry shame for what was done to them. Someone in your group may need it. Speak with care, and make sure they hear that what was done to them is not their sin.
- The study offers three pictures gently, as things "many Christians have seen": the crown of thorns, the garments of skin and sacrifice, and the cherubim on the veil. Present them as the study does, and keep to what the Bible says plainly (Galatians 3:13; Hebrews 9:22; Hebrews 10:20).

- The promise thread begins in this study. It will grow in each study; it is useful for a short recap at the start of each meeting.