

Fall of Mankind

Genesis 3:1-24

Bible Memory Verse

1 John 1:9 NIV

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Bible Story

It seems like perfection did not last long enough. I mean, the third chapter of the first book in the story of God's uniquely created world, and things go to the garbage can rather quickly! Couldn't we have lasted a little longer?! The story goes a little something like this:

The crafty serpent deceived the woman, Eve, into believing that she would not die if she ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, which God said they could not eat from. Eve took the fruit from the tree because it looked good and because she believed the serpent's lies. She also gave some of the fruit to her husband, Adam, who was with her. "Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked..." (Genesis 3:7).

So Adam and Eve made coverings for themselves because they felt ashamed—for the first time. When the Lord God was walking in the garden during the cool of the day, Adam and Eve hid. God called to the man, "Where are you?" Adam answered the Lord God and said that he was afraid because of his nakedness. He and the woman confessed to eating the fruit of the forbidden tree, thus disobeying God.

Each of the three were cursed.

The serpent:

*"Because you have done this,
Cursed are you above all the livestock
and all the wild animals!
You will crawl on your belly
and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.*

*"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 3:14-15)

The woman:

*"I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing;
with pain you will give birth to children.
Your desire will be for your husband,
and he will rule over you."*

(Genesis 3:16)

The man:

*"Cursed is the ground because of you;
through painful toil you will eat of it
all the days of your life.
It will produce thorns and thistles for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.*

*"By the sweat of your brow
you will eat your food
until you return to the ground,
since from it you were taken;
for dust you are
and to dust you will return."*

(Genesis 3:17-19)

Adam and Eve (and the serpent) were banished from the Garden of Eden. They fell. And mankind has been reeling from that experience ever since. Perfection broken. And we live with it even now. We are flawed perfection; created for an entirely different purpose, but are subjected to futility, pain, suffering, and death. Not only mankind, but all creation groans under the weight of sin and judgment.

This is the “conflict” which sets the stage for the rest of the story of the Bible—sin, rebellion, death. Mankind has since been born with this sin destructive nature inside of us. We cannot escape our own selves.

You know, God could have just wiped us out, started over. His creation was obviously broken and flawed. So why didn't he just throw us away, start over? Probably because God is full of love. And, probably, because He already had a plan of redemption, a rescue strategy, to win us back from sin and death. The story from here on out is how God and people deal with this wicked thing called sin.

Life Application

Doing bad stuff that God does not like (sin) really messes up our lives and our relationship with God. Sin gets in the way. But God made a rescue plan to take care of our sin problem and save us. His name is Jesus and He is God's only son. Jesus died on the cross for the forgiveness of your sins, which takes care of your "sin" problem!

So when you:

- Accept the forgiveness of God for your sins
- Believe that Jesus died for you and your sins
- Confess your sins to God

...then you are a new person. You no longer are a slave to sin, but a slave to God. And sin no longer gets in the way of your relationship, your walk with God. You are called a Christian – a follower of Jesus.

Review Questions

1. Who tricked Eve into eating the fruit of the tree? The serpent.
2. Why did Eve eat the fruit? "When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom..." (Genesis 3:6).
3. Who else besides Eve ate the fruit? Adam.
4. What happened when Adam and Eve ate the fruit? "Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realized they were naked..." (Genesis 3:7).
5. What were some of the punishments for eating the fruit?
 - a. For the serpent?
 - b. For the woman, Eve?
 - c. For the man, Adam?

Coloring Sheet

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