**The Only Solution**



**Topic**

The Fall

**Theme**

God is the only solution for humanity's universal sin problem.

**Desired Learner Response**

The learner will trust Christ as his Savior if he has not done so already, and he will recognize the importance of Bible intake in combatting temptation.

Materials

* Resources 1 and 4
* Pictures of learners' families

8

## Scripture focus

**Genesis 3-5**

## Summary

The perfect state of creation did not last very long. Adam and Eve succumbed to the first temptation-handing their authority over to Satan, losing their right to live in their beautiful Garden, and passing on their sin nature to everyone born after them. The evidence of sin began to appear immediately in their own family and in their descendants.

**Outline**

1. **God's Promise Offers the Solution to Sin (3)**
	1. Satan tempts man (3:1-5)
	2. Man follows the temptation (3:6-8)
	3. God seeks man (3:9-24)
2. **Man Rejects God's Solution to Sin (4; 5)**
	1. Sin bears fruit in murder (4:1-15)
	2. Sin bears fruit in broken relationships (4:16-32)
	3. Sin bears fruit in death (s)

#### Memory Verse

*"Therefore os by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation;*

*even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men*

*unto justification of life" (Romans 5:18).*



# GETTING STARTED

### Family Resemblances

Secure pictures of so me of the families represented in your class. With their permission , project their pictures for the class to see.

**ASK:** Which of the parents' physical characteristics do you see in their kids?

Have the learners who are pictured elaborate on any talents or abilities their children inherit ed from them.

**ASK:** What one thing did each child in all these pictures inherit perfectly from his or her parents? *Their sin nature.*

Today's Bible passage is perhaps the saddest in all of Scripture. It describes the beginning of sin. But the passage is also the most hopefu l in that it includes the first reference to the only solution for sin.

### Most Embarrassing Fall

**ASK:** What was your most embarrassin g fall? (01)

**ASK:** Why do we get so embarrassed when we fall?

None of us likes to fall in public. Our egos become bruisedand we look foolish.

**ASK:** How long did you go before you were able to live down your embar­ rassing fall? (02)

The fall we are going to talk is the Fall of humanity. That fall cost much more than a tempo rarily bruised ego; it cost a bruised heel.We will lea rn more about that bruised heel in our lesson for today. It is far moreserious than it sounds.

# SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

### God's Promise Offers the Solution to Sin (3)

* 1. **Satan tempts Eve (3:1-5)**

In simp le, straightforward language Genesis reports our first parents' willful plunge into sin. And the New Testa ment confirms the Genesis acco unt.

Satan the tempter use d a serpent, described as *more subtil than any beast of*

*the field ,* to deceiveEve.The serpe nt asked a seemingly innocent but intensely sinister question that insinuated God could not be trusted.

**READ:** Genesis 3:1. **ASK:** What was Satan trying to do with his sinister ques­ tion? (03) *He was trying to raise doubt in Eve's mind about God's goodness.*

See Romans 5:12- 14 ;

1. Corint hians 15:21, 22;

and 1 Timoth y 2:13, 14 for New Testament passages that address the Fall.

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Satan knew, of course, that God had forbidden the fruit of only one tree, but he was raising in Eve's mind a **doubt** about God's fairness. Why should God have made any restrictions at all? Satan was making one tree more important to Eve than all the other trees in the Garden. Satan never focuses on the privileges we have, all the beauties we behold, all the joys that we experience. He focuses on the **restrictions,** the forbidden things- and exaggerates them- to suggestthat God is mean and holding out on us.

Satan essentially divorcedthe restriction from God's holy character. Eating of the forbidden tree was not only wrong because God sa id it was wrong, but it was also wrong because it violated God's holiness. Satan minimized the restriction and made it seem trivial. When we see what God forbids as a list of restrictions rather than as violations of His holiness, we open ourse lves to tempta tion:

Eve confess e d that one restriction existed, but she misrepresented it. She said the restriction included not touching the tree and that doing so would bring death (3:3). For whatever reason, she was stat ing the restriction as stronger than God stated it (2:16, 17). The elevated restriction played right into Satan's hand. He got Eve to focus on what was restricted.

Immediately Satan progressed in his methodical temptation by boldly statin g that Eve would not die if s he ate the fruit (3:4). Obviously Satan was lying. We can plainly see that. But Eve bought into the lie. She believed that the serpent must be her a lly. He was, after all, letting her in on a secret.

Satan always denies the consequences of **disobedience** (3:5). *The trouble with you, Eve,* Satan was basically saying, is *that you take God too seriously.You believe that He means everything He says. Actually, Eve, God* is *cheating you. He knowsthat you can becomeas a god, knowing good and evil.*

Eve had listened too long to the serpent. The fruit was appet izing, eating it would be a pleasant experience, and it would make her wise (3:6). Satan had ap­ pealed to her **self -interes t.** Sens uality and pride!The five se nses and pride! How powerfully they make bad things lookgood to us.

* 1. **Adam and Eve yield to temptation (3:6- 7)**

In trigued with the unknown, Eve was tempted by the appetizing and visual appeal of the food as well as the prospect of becoming wise through eating it. Her response to the temptation formed a pattern.

**READ:** Genesis 3:6 and 1 John 2:16. **ASK:** What parallels do you see between these two verses? (0 4) *Theavenues of temptation spelled out in* I *John (the lust of the flesh, thelust of the eyes, and the pride of life) are the same ones through which Sata n temptedEve in Genesis3.*

Satan tempted Christ through the same three avenues. Christ, of course, was victorious over each temptation (Matt. 4:1- 11).

**ASK:** What does t he repet ition of the avenues of te mptation tell you about temptation? (QS) *It has been basically the samesince the beginning. Satan still appeals to use through the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.*

Eve ate the fruit, then gave it to Adam, who also ate. Human ity's problems thus began with disobedience to God's command.The process of death was now underway.

**READ:** Hebrews 9:27; Ephesians 2:1; Revelation 20 :11- 15. **ASK:** Describe the three *deaths* brought on humanity through Adam's sin? (Q6) *There is* a *physi­ cal, spiritual, and eternal death.*

According to Romans 5:12, the entire huma n race participated in Adam's origi- nal sin (cf. Heb. 7:9, 10). Thu s his sin is imputed to each person's account.

**READ:** Romans 5:21; 2 Corinthians 5:21. **ASK:** What is the only way to escape the death sentence associated with sin? (Q7) *Through Jesus Christ, Who gives eternal life by His grace. He was made to besin for us so we might have His righ­ teousness accredited to our account instead.*

Adam and Eve imm ediately knew the effects of sin in their consciences and felt guilt and shame from their sin (Gen. 3:7). Convicted by their sin, Adam and Eve attempted the impossible- hiding from God (cf. Ps. 139:7-12). Theysewed leaves together for clothing to cover themselves, but the leaves were not the solution

to their sin problem. Theycould hide their nakednessfrom each other, but their hearts were laid open before God.

### God seeks Adam and Eve (J:8-24)

God pursued Adam and Eve. They heard Him walking in the Ga rden but their guiltdrove them to attemptto hide from His presence (3:8). God asked where Adam was rath er than why he was hiding. Adam's response revealed the depth of his guilt. Adam sa id he was *afraid* when he heard God calling out for him (3:10). What a sad commentary on sin. It crushed the perfect fellowship Adam en joyed with God and replaced it with fear. It is hard to imagine how Adam must have felt as the gravity of what he had done continued to sinkin. No doubt it continued to sinkin for the rest of his life.

**ASK:** What thoughts cross your mind when you consider the rep e rcuss io ns of Adam's sin? *(QB)*

When God questioned Adam about being naked, Adam immediatelyturned to blaming Eve (3:11, 12), who blamed the serpent (3:13). Adam was also implicitly blaming God, Eve's Creator.

God picked up where Eve left off and cursed the serpent (3:14). He said the serpent was cursed more than every beast of the field and that it would move on its belly and eat dust. Some have infe rred from thesestatements that the serpent previously had legs. That is a possibility. Either way, the sta temen ts are meant to humiliate the serpent.

Following the horror of the first sin, we find a sparlding jewel commonly referred toas the protoevangelium, or *firstgospel.* Genesis 3:15 reveals that conflict will exist betweenSatan and the woman and between Satan's seed (hischildren; see John 8:44)

Acco rdin g to 1 Tim. 2:13, 14: *Adam was first formed, then Eve.And Adam was not deceived, but the woman beingdeceived was in the transgression.* This implies that Adam sinned knowingly- not out of decepti on, which was the case for Eve (cf.

1. Cor. 11:3). That made Adam's sin far worse. The Bible seems to place the guilt on Adam for the sin that actually brought

about the fall (cf. Hos. 6:7; Rom. 5:12-21; 1 Cor. 15:22).

We can only con jec ture what may have happened had Adam refrained from sinning after Eve had taken the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

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#### The Problem of Sin

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and the woman's seed (her children). It also reveals that the climax would come with Satan's bruising the heel of the woman's Seed (one born of a woman, the incarnate Son of God) and with the Seed of the woman crushing the head of the serpent. The incarnate Son of God would defeat Satan by dying on the cross for our sins.

**RESOURCE:** Dis play resource 4 with the right half covered. Emphasize that the cross is the only solution for the problem of sin.

But despite the victory promised through a Savior, sin would still have very real, immediate, and lasting consequences. For Eve, the effects of sin would include difficulty in the process of bearing children and strife with her husband (3:16). For Adam, it would focus on difficulty in cultivating the now-cursed earth (3:17, 18). Life would be characterized by hard effort and toil until one dies and returns to the ground (3:19).

God graciously clothed Adam and Eve, presumably to hide their guilt and also to protect them as they left the perfect garden to face the elements of a cursed world. Nevertheless, they must have cringed as they witnessed God ldll at least one animal to make the *coats of skins* (3:21). This would have been Adam and Eve's introduction to death. It would have also been their introduction to substitution­ ary atonement. They associated their guilt with the death of the innocent animal.

The fact that God made the coveringsfor Adam and Eve communicated their need of salvation from outside themselves. They could not solve their sin problem on their own.

**READ:** Genesis 3:21. **ASK:** What do you think it would have been like for Adam and Eve to put on the skins of a dead animal? (Q9) *They most likely wo uld have sensed theseriousness of their sin. Perhaps they wo uld have even felt remorse for the animal(s) who died to provide them with adequate clothing.*

Man now knew evil experientially and had to leave the Garden and the proximity to the tree oflife. God sent him out to work the cursed ground outside the Garden. He placed cherubim at the entrance to the Garden with a swirling, flaming sword to guard the way to the tree oflife (3:22- 24).

**READ:** Genesis 3:24. **ASK:** What would the cherub im and the flaming sword have communicated to Adam and Eve about their future? (Ql O) *That life was different now.They were no longer in perfect fellowship with God. Sin was in their*

*lives to stay. They could not go back to the way it was.*

This history of man living in perfection in a garden paradise was short-lived. The account of its ending may seem to leave us with as many questions as it does answers. What is necessary, however, is that we understand the foundational truths that are presented in this chapter and their relationship to the rest of Scrip­ ture. If we do not understand the Fall, we cannot understand the gospel message that is given to solve the problem revealed in Genesis 3.

Ever since the Garden, man has ignored the reality of sin and has come up with ways to explain it away. But none of man's *solutions* to sin actually solve the problem.

**RESOURCE:** Display resource 4. **ASK:** What are some of man's substitute solution s to sin? (Record or reveal answers.) (Ql 1) *To call it a sickness; to legal­ ize it; to say it is harmless; to call it a product of one's environment; to call it self-ex­ pression; to outweighit with good works.*

**The Problem of Sin**

**God's OnlySolution M n·sSubstitutes**

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### Man Rejects God's Solution to Sin (4; 5)

Huma nity's problems continued to multiply in unbelieving hearts in the early days of the earth's history.

### Sin bears fruit in murder (4:1-15)

The first child to be born into the world was born with an inherited sin nature. Nevertheless, it must have been a happy day when Eve delivered a baby boy. She named him *Cain* (4:1), meaning *acquisition,* or *gotten.* Obviously she believed he was a gift from God. She may have even hoped that he would fulfill God's promise that the seed of the woman would bruise the serpent's head (3:15).

Adam and Eve's second baby was also a boy, but he would become a far diffe r­ ent man than his older brother. His name, *Abel,* mea ns *breath* or *vanity.* The name suggests that Adam and Eve often pondered the tragic consequencesof the sin in the Garden. Life had become temporal; it was passing as quickly as a breath of air.

Cain was totally different from his younger brother, Abel, although both grew up in the same environment at home and received the same sp iritual guidance. Both brothers were born with a sin nature, but Cain became a hateful, jealous, resentful murderer, while Abe l became a God-fearing worshiper.

Cain becamea farmer, apparently a very productive one. Knowing that he should worship God, he harvested some vegetables and presented them to the Lord as an offering (4:3). Apparently, he should have understood that only a blood sacrifice would be acceptable to God. After all, his parents had learned this truth in Eden and had surely taught it to him. Nevertheless, Cain wanted God to accept him on his terms. His pride kept him from going to God on God's terms. Cain was the first to reject the truth that *without shedding of blood* is *no re mission* (Heb. 9:22).

**ASK:** Why does pride keep a person from going to Godon God's terms? (Q12) *The prideful person wants to set his own terms for approaching God. God's way demands a humble admittance that we are helplessand in need of Him.*

Abel became a shepherd.When he approached God in worship, he offered an animal sacrifice *of the firstlings of his flock* (Gen. 4:4). He must have believed this to be the only way to God. He offered his sac rifice*by faith* (Heb.11:4).

The Lord accepted Abe l and his offering, but He rejected Cain's offering (Gen.

4:4, 5). All who approach God receive either His approval or His disapproval. If sinners accept the blood sacr ifice Jesus provided on the cross, God accepts them. If they insist instead on offering Him the laborof their hands, He rejects them. The sting of rejection enraged Cain and etched a scowl on his face (4:5).

The Lord excels in grace. He gave Cain an opportunity to repent and bring an acceptable offering, and He warned that Cain's failure to do well would make him

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highly vulnerable to sin (4:7). Like a vicious animal, sin was ready to pounce on Cain and consume him.

Cain showed neither remorse nor the slightest desire to repent. His heart was totally occupied with premeditated murder.

It seems Cain lured Abel into a death trap. Cain must have concocted some reason to talk with his brother privately, so the two went to a field to converse. Suddenly Cain ambus hed and killed Abel (4:8). It was a clear case of evil rising up against good.

When God asked Cain where Abel was, he replied, *I know not* (4:9). He had become like Satan, a murderer and a liar. Cain hypocritically asked, *Am I my broth­ er's keeper?* Cain's conscience told him that he was responsible for his brother's welfare, but he would not admit that truth.

God thundered, *The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground* (4:10). God is not deaf to the voices that call for justice. The time for mercy for Cain had passed. He had been a farmer, but he would become a wanderer who would struggle to get fruit from the soil. He would build a city, but he would never feel at home. He would always be the restless stranger.

*My punishment* is *greater than I can bear,* Cain cried to the Lord (4:13). He was far more disturbed about his punishment than about his sin.

God did not exact the penalty of capital punishment on Cain but assured him by a sign that his life would be preserved. Cut off from God, Cain dwelt in Nod (4:15, 16).

### Sin bears fruit in broken relationships (4:16-32)

The account goes on to give the details of the life of Cain and his descendants. Lamech, for example, married two women, Adah and Zillah. Later he killed a man and boasted about it to his two wives (4:23, 24). He blasphemously claimed that he would outdo God in punishment if anyone tried to hurt him. He said that God promised a sevenfold vengeance on anyone who killed Cain but that he would avenge himself seventy-sevenfold. He represented the majority of people on earth, who were going in the way of Cain.

Meanwhile, history's firs t family continued to grow with the birth of Seth and, later, his son Enos. Seth's appearance was a consolation to Eve followingthe death of Abel. In spite of the presence of great wickedness, the true worship of God al so began to develop at this time. There is little doubt that calling on God's name included prayer and offering sacr ifices (4:25, 26).

### Sin bears fruit in death (5)

Genesis s reminds us clearly that sin brings death. The words *and he died* are applied to everyone listed in the genealogy except for one. Enoch walked with God for over three hundred years before God took him to Heaven.

The genealogy of Genesis s also makes it clear that God was preserving a line

of Seth, through whom the Promised Seed would eventua lly come.

**ASK:** How does your perspective on the genealogy of Seth change when you realize that it is a record of the line through which the Savior would eventually come? (Ql 3)

The genealogy end s with the foreshadowing of amazing events to come.

Rea lizing the desperate condition of the world and all humanity under thecurse, La mech prayed for comfort to come through his son and named him a ccordingly. Six hundred years later, the world would changeforeverwith Noah a t the center of God's plan.

**MAKING IT PERSONAL**

### Trusting Christ

The history of the worldis one of disease,death, war, murder, and pain. But not all of history. God's plan from the beginninghas been to provide rede mption to fallen humanity. He did that through Jes us Christ. What a wonderful hope Christ is in this fallen world!

**ASK:** Have you recognized Christ as the only solution for your sin? If not, what is keeping you from making that decision? (Q14)

Encourage learners who have not trusted in Christ as theirSavior to do so.

Make yourself available to talk with them after class.

### Victory over Temptation

Review Satan's tactics in tempting us tosin. He (1) raises doubt about God's goodness, (2) causes us to focus on restrictions rather than God's blessings, (3) denies that our sins have consequences, and (4) appeals to our self-interest.

**ASK:** Which of Satan's tactics in temptation are particularly effective in your

**life? (Ql 5)**

We have the advantageof having the complete Bible.By it we can resist temp­ tation and grow in the Lord. The Bible is effective because the Holy Spirit uses it in our hearts to help us resis t temptations we face (Eph. 6:17). It also tells us the truth so we can spot Satan's lies (6:14; John 17:17).

**ASK:** How might youneed to adjust your Bible intake in order to be equipped to combat Satan? (Q16)

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### Summary and Memory Verse

**RESOURCE:** Display resource 1. Add a summary statement for lesson 2 or use the following : Recognize Christ as the only solution for sin.

Encouragelearners to memorizeRomans 5:18. Give theman opportunity to say

the verse in class next week. ·

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**God's Deep Grace**



## Topic

God's grace and justice

## Theme

God showed His gra­ ciousness and justice in the events of the Flood.

## Desired Learner Response

The learner willtake his sin seriously and will endeavor to witness

to those who need to hear of God's grace and justice.

#### Materials

* Resources 1 and 5
* Video of tsunami
* Visual 1 from resource CD

**26**

## Scripture Focus

Genesis 6-9

## Summary

Becauseof the incredible expanse of sin in the centuries following the fall, God grew weary of the evil conditions upon the earth. He determined to judge the world in a manner that would bring cleansing and also relief from some of the effects of the curse. Thus He sent a worldwide Flood that destroyed all living things except those that were hid safely with Noah and his family inside the ark. The Flood event consumed more than ayear and brought great changes to the world.

#### Outline

1. **The Days of Noah (6:1- 12)**
2. **Preparation for the Flood (6 :13- 7:9)**

**Ill. Salvation and Destruction (7:10- 24)**

1. **Promise Fulfillment (8)**
2. **God's Covenan t with Noah (9:1- 17)**
3. **Noah's Foolish Sin (9:18- 29)**

#### Memory Verse

*"The LORD sitteth upon the flood; yea, the LORD sitteth King for ever"*

*(Psalm 29.-10).*