

## Before the Lesson

**Read the Scripture and overview below before your LIFE Group meets.**

Scripture passage: Genesis 2-3

Life was perfect! Adam and Eve found themselves in Eden, a place of sinless utopia. God breathed life into the first man and the first woman, set them in a garden, and gave them everything they needed to live, work, and be fulfilled. Within that garden, though, God gave parameters. All things were available to this first couple, with one exception – the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. That tree was the one boundary God set, and rather than stay within the confines of God’s framework, Adam and Eve chose to live in the outer limits and pursue their own way.

Thus one bite from one tree – one act of defiance and unbelief – became the fallout for all mankind. Just as swiftly as God filled Adam’s lungs with air, so death became reality in a moment – the death of the spirit, the mind, soul, and ultimately the body. Eden became the epicenter of conflict, and from Eden came the struggles, the character flaws, and the depraved conditions that would plague mankind forever. All was lost, so it seemed, until God intervened and made restitution for all.

### Focus question:

Are you living within the boundaries of God’s creation?

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## Group Discussion

- Review Genesis 2-3. Discuss all the provisions God had given Adam and Eve in the garden. Were there any worries, conflicts, or unmet needs prior to the fall?
- How does the Bible describe the serpent in Genesis 3:1? From verses 1-5, describe how the serpent deceived Eve.
- Read the following verses. How does the Bible describe Satan, and in what ways does Satan deceive us today? What will ultimately become of Satan?
  - Luke 4:1-13
  - John 8:44
  - 1 Peter 5:8
  - Revelation 12:9, 20:2
- God made a complete and perfect creation but one that was dependent upon Him and His directive. The fall shows the independent spirit of man. Discuss ways you display a lack of dependence upon God. What does this type of behavior tell you and others about the way you view God?
- How does the original sin of man indicate that the root of all sin is unbelief?

- From the sin of unbelief stems many other sins: fearfulness, pride, and greed, to name a few. How do each of these sins relate back to unbelief?
- After the fall, everything that God had intended was turned upside down. Part of this inverted life was that death became a reality – death of the spirit, the soul, mind, and ultimately, the body. Of even greater negative implication was the total depravity of man. What did this depravity mean for Adam and Eve and their relationship with God? What does it mean for us? (See Genesis 3:9 – “Where are you?”)
- What does it mean to be eternally separated from God?
- How did God intervene and provide restoration?
  - Genesis 3:15-19 – The Consequences
  - Genesis 3:21 – The Covering
  - Isaiah 53:5, John 1:29, Romans 16:20, Ephesians 2:8-9 – The Cross
- Where are you today? Have you been covered by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ? Are you running away from God or running toward Him?
- Do you need to intervene on someone’s behalf this week? Will you pray and then share the Gospel with them?
- How can we guard against sin? Read Ephesians 6:10-18, then talk specifically about the elements of the “Armor of God” and the way they can help us combat sin.

### Further Study (to be used in your personal Quiet Time)

- Reread the account of Jesus’ covering for your sins in Isaiah 53:5-6, inserting your name in place of the appropriate pronouns. Pray and thank Him for intervening for you.

**Joshua Code memory verse: Psalm 23:1**

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.*

### Family Time

Use this illustration to teach your children about the fall (Genesis 3). Remind them that life is full of choices and that every choice makes other things happen. Tell them that some choices lead to good things and other choices lead to bad things. Ask one of your children to hold a book at arm’s length in front of them; then ask them to release the book from their hands. After the book falls to the ground, explain that it was their choice to let go of the book that made it fall. Now repeat the exercise but have an adult sit on the floor where the book will drop. (This should be done carefully so no one gets hurt.) Explain that our choices can often hurt other people. Remind them that when we choose to disobey, there are bad results. Now have your child drop the book once more while an adult is sitting on the floor, but this time intervene and catch the book as it is dropped so it does not hit the person sitting on the floor. Explain to the children that just as you stepped in and caught the book, Jesus stepped in on our behalf and saved us from our sins by going to the cross. Pray and thank God for the gift of His Son, Jesus.



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