

Discussion Guide: March 22nd, 2026

Message Series: *The Grand Design: Creation, Chaos, and Christ*

Message: "Malice in Wonderland"- What is sin?

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Take Home Truth: Satan and sin destroy God's grand design, but Jesus redeems and restores it!

Focus Passages:

Genesis 3:1-13 (NIV) Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 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, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me- she gave me some fruit from the tree and I ate it." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Romans 5:16-17 (NLT) For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.

James 1:12-14 (NIV) Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV) No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

John 8:34-36 (NIV) Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

Message Highlights:

The pattern of original SIN

- S- Seduction by the serpent
- I- Independence from God
- N- New consequences

Why does this matter to us?

1. Jesus restores your relationship with God.
2. Jesus gives us power to overcome temptation.
3. Jesus' sacrifice allows us to walk in freedom.

Discussions Questions:

1. **Read Genesis 3:1-5** What is an area in your life where the devil twists God's truth to make you believe something that isn't true? What is a sneaky sin the devil convinces you is ok? (ex. gossip, fudging on your taxes, sharing Netflix, pay for 1 movie and going to 2, "It's not hurting anyone.")
2. **Read Genesis 3:6-13** Where do you focus on what's NOT part of God's good design for you, instead of what God has already blessed you with? What are hidden sins and habits you hope no one discovers? Are you hiding from God right now because of sin and shame in our life? If God asked "where are you?" would you be honest and tell Him, or pretend everything's alright?
3. **Read Romans 5:16-17** How does it make you feel knowing that you were born a sinner and inherited a sinful nature through Adam? What does it mean to you that God's grace is greater, and that your relationship with God can be redeemed and restored through Jesus?

4. **Read 1 Corinthians 10:13** What are some practical ways you have been successful in overcoming temptation with Jesus' power?
5. **Read John 8:34-36** What is the significance of this verse in your life? How does this verse change the way you see sin, temptation, guilt and shame?
6. "Jesus doesn't give us the freedom to do what we want, but the freedom to follow God." What does this statement mean to you?

Time Of Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you that your original design was a perfect world and an intimate relationship with each of us. We are sorry for all the times we have fallen into temptation and sin in our own life. We pray that we all realize that we don't have to walk in guilt and shame. We can be redeemed and restored by confessing our sins and claiming Jesus as our Savior and Lord. Help us overcome any temptation we may face with Jesus' power and the help of the Holy Spirit. We cannot thank you enough for Jesus' sacrifice that allows us to walk in freedom. Amen