

God judged Adam and placed a curse on the earth.

God promised to send the Deliverer.

Overview

1. Introduction
2. God called out to Adam. (Genesis 3:8-9; Psalm 19:1-3; Jeremiah 22:29)
3. God questioned Adam. (Genesis 3:9-11; Acts 17:25)
4. Adam blamed Eve, and Eve blamed the snake. (Genesis 3:12-13)
5. God cursed the snake. (Genesis 3:14)
6. God promised to send the Deliverer. (Genesis 3:15)
7. God said Eve would suffer because of her sin. (Genesis 3:16)
8. God said Adam would suffer because of his sin. (Genesis 3:17-19)
9. Adam and Eve are the ancestors of all people. (Genesis 3:20; Acts 17:26; Romans 5:12)
10. Conclusion

Gaining perspective

The story of redemption begins in Genesis 3:15. Starting with this lesson, you will be pointing forward to the coming Deliverer.

The introduction of the Deliverer opens up the possibility of comments from your students who may recognize that this is referring to Jesus. If any of them point this out, simply acknowledge that it is so and then tell them that, because the fulfillment of this prophecy comes much later in the story, we will only refer to Him as “the Deliverer.” Remind them that they are studying the Bible chronologically in its historical sequence, and it wasn’t known that the coming Savior would be called “Jesus” before His birth.

If a student wants to talk specifically about Christ being the fulfillment of the promise in Genesis 3:15, it would be best to do so privately after the close of the lesson.

If, on the other hand, no one mentions the fact that this verse is speaking of Jesus, don’t reveal yet who fulfilled this prophecy and promise. The Old Testament does not reveal the specific identity of the Savior. Wait till you teach about Jesus’ birth from the New Testament. Do not jump ahead of the story, but continually point forward to the coming Deliverer.

Teacher tip

You should teach everything in this lesson except the content in the gray boxes.

1. Introduction

- **We will begin by looking back at what we have already learned.**

Teacher: Review the previous lesson by asking your students the following questions. The expected answer follows each question, indented and in italics.

- ❓ Why did Satan want to destroy Adam and Eve?
Because Satan hates God and he hates man.
- ❓ Why did Satan disguise himself when he spoke to Eve?
Because He wanted to deceive her into rebelling against God.
- ❓ By contradicting what God said about the results of eating the forbidden fruit, what was Satan implying?
That God was a liar.
- ❓ What did Satan say would happen if man ate of the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil?
That they would become like God – knowing good and evil.
- ❓ After Eve had been tricked into eating the fruit, she offered some to Adam. Was he deceived like Eve was?
No. He deliberately disobeyed God's command, behaving independently of God.
- ❓ What were the consequences of not believing God's Word?
 - *Their relationship with God was broken; they became His enemy.*
 - *They would die physically.*
 - *They would be separated from God for all eternity.*

- **We will now turn our attention to the focus of this lesson.**

God offers hope.

It is difficult to conceive that, in light of God's wonderful character, Adam acted independently of God. His decision to do so brought tragedy, not only to him and Eve, but to all their descendants. We can only imagine the horror this first couple felt when utter chaos shattered the perfect lives they had previously known.

Yet in their darkest hour, God, in His great mercy, gave them a promise of hope.

2. God called out to Adam.

- **God loved Adam and Eve and came into the garden to be with them.**

Before they were separated from God, they enjoyed being with Him. But after they disobeyed Him, Adam and Eve tried to hide from God.

Teacher: Anytime you see the open Bible icon with the words “Read [Scripture],” as below, invite a student to read that passage aloud.



Read Genesis 3:8.

- **God called out to Adam and Eve.**



Read Genesis 3:9.

Teacher: Anytime you see the question icon, as below, ask your students the question(s) that follows it and pause for them to respond. Sometimes more than one answer is correct, but occasionally there is only one correct answer. Whatever the case, if the students do not respond with the answer provided in italics, you should teach it.

- **?** When Adam and Eve were attempting to hide among the trees, how do we know God knew where they were?

He is everywhere and knows everything.

When they were attempting to hide among the trees, He was there.

- **?** So in view of the fact that nothing can be concealed from God, why did He call out, “Where are you?”

Teacher: Allow your students to give **their** thoughts, and then teach the following.

- **God called Adam and Eve because He still loved them.**

Even though God intended to do what He had said by punishing them for their disobedience, He was giving Adam and Eve the opportunity to come to Him voluntarily and admit their sin.

- **There are two things God wanted Adam and Eve to agree with Him about.**

He wanted them to acknowledge that what He told them about eating the fruit was true.

He also wanted them to agree that they were wrong for choosing to believe Satan instead of God.

- **God calls people today.**

God has not changed. Even though we cannot hear an audible voice like Adam did, God still calls to people today.

- **?** How does God speak to people now?

Teacher: The students will probably acknowledge that God speaks through creation and through His Word. Allow them to give **their** thoughts, and then teach the following.

- **God speaks through the things He has created.**

We can know that God exists, and understand something of His character, because of seeing His creation around us.

❓ What is God saying to all people everywhere through the things He created?

- *“I am the true God, the Creator of all things.”*
- *“I am almighty.”*
- *“I am loving.”*
- *“Listen to me, because I am your Creator, and seek Me.”*

As we take in the beauty of our surroundings, or gaze into the sky, and let our thoughts wander to the vastness of the universe, we should remember how great God is. He is calling out to us through creation.



Read Psalm 19:1-3.

The beauty and expanse of God’s creation should make us stop and realize that the Creator of all things wants us to get to know Him.

- **God is also speaking to us through the Bible.**

God’s Word is His message to everyone in the world, as well as to us personally. God wants us to understand and believe what He has communicated to us in the Bible.

Teacher: Anytime a portion of a verse is quoted, as below, read the section directly from the lesson, because the rest of the verse contains themes which are not to be covered at this time.

Through the Bible, God’s voice is calling out to all people. In Jeremiah 22:29, God calls to all the earth saying, “...*hear the word of the Lord.*”

3. God questioned Adam.



Read Genesis 3:9-11.

❓ If God already knew the answers to these questions, why did He question Adam?

God was giving Adam the opportunity to voluntarily acknowledge his sin.

- **God had the authority to hold Adam and Eve accountable for their actions.**

❓ Why did God have that authority?

Because He was their Creator, they rightfully belonged to Him

Adam and Eve had to answer to their Creator for what they had done. So do all people.

- **God is our rightful owner.**

God has given life to all mankind.

Acts 17:25 says, “*He gives to all life, breath, and all things.*”

4. Adam blamed Eve, and Eve blamed the snake.

- **Adam and Eve did not want to acknowledge their sin.**



Read Genesis 3:12-13.

- **Who did Adam blame?**

God and Eve.

Instead of acknowledging his guilt, Adam blamed God for giving him the woman. Adam was insinuating that if God hadn't given him the woman, he wouldn't have disobeyed.

- **Who did Eve blame?**

The snake.

- **Adam and Eve tried to avoid taking personal responsibility for what they had done.**

It is a human tendency that when a person is caught doing something wrong, he tries to blame someone else. Sometimes an innocent person is blamed and punished for what someone else has done. In a corrupt society, people may even be able to buy their way out of being convicted and so avoid punishment for crimes they have committed.

- **But no one can deceive God.**

Sin will not go unpunished. God sees and knows the truth about each person. No one can escape God's punishment by blaming someone else. God holds each person fully responsible for his own sin.

Adam blamed God and Eve, and Eve blamed the serpent, but God already knew everything that had happened. Nothing is hidden from Him.

5. God cursed the snake.

- **God spoke to the snake.**



Read Genesis 3:14.

We are not told in God's Word how the snake moved about when it was first created, but we know it did not slither along the ground as snakes do now. It was only after Satan had used the snake to deceive Eve that God cursed it, causing it, from that time on, to move in the way it does today.

6. God promised to send the Deliverer.

- **Adam and Eve were now under Satan's control.**

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God and submitted to Satan's control, their relationship with God was broken.

Verification verses for teacher only: John 12:31
2 Corinthians 4:4
Ephesians 2:1-2

They were no longer God's children. They were Satan's children and under his power.

As we continue to study through the Bible, it will be clear that, from the time Adam obeyed Satan, Satan began to lead the majority of people to do what he wanted them to do. He had become the ruler of this world.

Undoubtedly, Satan thought he had defeated God and gained complete control of the world.

❓ Why can no one defeat God?

Because God is almighty.

- **God promised He would send a Deliverer.**



Read Genesis 3:15.

God planned that the promised Deliverer would be the child of a virgin woman.

Notice that this verse does not say "their" offspring. The man is not even mentioned in connection with the promised Deliverer. The coming Deliverer would only be the child of the woman.

Verification verses for teacher only: Isaiah 7:14
Luke 1:27

- **God promised that the Deliverer would overcome Satan.**

The Deliverer would fight against Satan and "bruise" or "crush" the serpent's head.

Teacher: The Hebrew word *shuwp* in Genesis 3:15 is translated as "bruise" in many English versions. Strong's Concordance defines the meaning of *shuwp* as "to gape, i.e. snap at; figuratively, to overwhelm." It is translated as "bruise, crush, seize and strike at."¹

¹ Harris, Archer and Waltke, *Theological Workbook of the Old Testament*.

The “head” symbolizes authority. For example, the head of a country is the supreme authority of that country. If one crushes the head, he loses his power and authority.

Teacher: In the Bible, the head always refers to authority. Placing a foot on a person’s neck or head indicated victory (Joshua 10:24; 1 Samuel 17:51). Genesis 3:15 tells us that the promised Deliverer would defeat Satan and crush the authority and power he had gained over the world.

God said that the Deliverer would overcome Satan, robbing him of his power and delivering people from his control. Through the promised Deliverer, people would be brought back into harmony with God.

- **God said that the Deliverer’s “heel” would be bruised.**

The bruised heel in this verse means that, in His fight against Satan, the promised Deliverer would be caused great pain and suffering by Satan, yet He would not be overcome by him.

If someone’s head is crushed, the person cannot survive; but if someone’s heel is bruised, the person will survive, although wounded.

- **We have already learned many things about God.**

❓ What have we learned about God’s character as we have studied from Genesis 1 and 2?

Teacher: Give your students the opportunity to talk about what they have learned. Ask questions if necessary to remind them of God’s attributes as follows:

- Is eternal (never had a beginning and will never have an end)
- Is all-powerful
- Knows everything
- Is everywhere all of the time
- Is loving and kind
- Is holy and righteous
- Punishes those who rebel against Him and disobey His commands.

❓ What characteristic do you see in the fact that God promised to send the Deliverer?

Teacher: Allow your students to give **their** thoughts, and then teach the following.

- **He is loving, merciful and gracious.**

Adam and Eve had disobeyed God’s command, and because of this, God could have abandoned them or immediately banished them to eternal punishment. But instead, because God is merciful and gracious, He promised to send the Deliverer.

Teacher: Read the following story to explain the concepts of mercy and grace.

Suppose that a man dressed in filthy clothes and reeking of alcohol unexpectedly came to your door, asking for help. You invited him in, allowed him to take a shower, provided him with clean clothes and gave him a good meal. But as he left your home, you saw him steal an antique heirloom from the hallway table.

Suppose that, the next day, he came back, again asking for help. Even though he didn't deserve your kindness this time, and actually deserved to be punished for stealing your heirloom, you again allowed him to take a shower and you cooked him another meal.

When he came the first time, he hadn't done anything to deserve your kindness; when he returned, he had done something for which he deserved to be punished.

When you helped him initially, it was an act of **love** and **kindness**. But when you met his needs in spite of him having stolen from you, then it was grace. And when you didn't call the police to have him charged with stealing, it became **mercy**.

? What had God done for Adam and Eve when He created them that showed He is loving and kind?

He gave them everything they needed and more.

? Once Adam and Eve rebelled against God, what did they deserve?

The punishment of death.

? How did God show mercy?

He did not immediately send them to the Lake of Fire.

? How did God show grace?

He promised to send the Deliverer to save them from the punishment they deserved.

Teacher: Show Supplemental Visual 12.



7. God said Eve would suffer because of her sin.

- **God told Eve that she would bear consequences for what she had done.**



Read Genesis 3:16.

God spoke to Eve and told her that, because she had disobeyed Him, she would suffer in childbirth and be under the authority of her husband.

8. God said Adam would suffer because of his sin.

- **God also told Adam the consequences of his sin.**



Read Genesis 3:17-19.

- **Adam and Eve fell into Satan's trap because they listened to him.**

Satan deceived Eve and used her to lead Adam into sin. Even though Adam knew what God had said, he willingly listened to Eve and allowed himself to be persuaded to do what he knew was contrary to what God wanted.

- **Satan works subtly to lead us away from what God says.**

Even our own family members may hinder us from accepting what God says to us through His Word, or they may cause us to think that we don't need to believe God.

- **Because Adam sinned, God cursed the ground.**

Before he sinned against God, Adam took care of the garden. Everything grew well without him having to work hard. But when Adam sinned, God cursed the earth, and it no longer was the perfect environment man had once enjoyed. His work would be toilsome because of his sin.

- **Because Adam sinned, God told him that he would die physically.**

God told Adam that, because he had sinned, he would die and his body would go back to the dust of the earth from which God had made it.

We know that this hadn't been what God had planned when He created Adam and Eve. God had never intended for them to die. It was only because of Adam's disobedience to God that death came into this world.

- **We live in a world that suffers from the curse God put on it because of Adam's sin.**

? What are some of the ways that humanity suffers as a result of Adam's sin?

Teacher: If the student discussion does not bring out the following consequences of Adam and Eve's sin, you should mention them:

- Humanity constantly struggles against sickness, pain, sorrow and physical exhaustion.

- Eventually all humanity has to face our greatest enemy – death.
- Natural catastrophes such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, floods, tornados, droughts and plagues cause misery and death.

Man knew nothing of these hardships before Adam and Eve sinned. The Bible teaches that all this misery in the world today is the direct result of Adam's disobedience to God.

9. Adam and Eve are the ancestors of all people.

- **Every human being has descended from Adam and Eve.**



Read Genesis 3:20.

Eve, the first woman, became the mother of all humanity. Adam, the first man, became the father and original ancestor of every human being. Even though people have different colored skin and different features, we all originally came from the same ancestors – Adam and Eve.

Acts 17:26 says that God “*has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth.*”

- **When Adam sinned, he was separated from God.**

Because Adam died to God, we, his descendants, were born already separated from God and under the sentence of death.

Teacher: Give an illustration to show that we are sinners because our ancestor was a sinner. For example:

We know that like begets like. Apple trees reproduce apples. Cats reproduce cats.

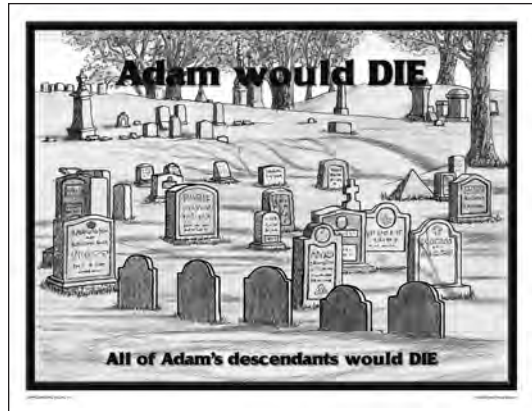
- **? What does sinful man reproduce?**

Sinful man.

Romans 5:12 says “... *through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men...*”

God judged Adam and placed a curse on the earth.
God promised to send the Deliverer.

Teacher: Show Supplemental Visual 13.



10. Conclusion

Sin brought terrible consequences into this world. We live with those consequences every day, and we also die because of them.

This is bad news, and its reality should grip our hearts. But God, in His mercy and grace, provides hope. We will learn about that hope as we go on in the lessons.

Teacher: As you finish teaching the lesson, point to the spot reached on the Chronological Time Line as indicated by the arrow. You might say, for example, "This is where we are on the time line. We will resume studying God's story here in our next lesson."

