



God's Promise and Curse

OVERVIEW

This lesson presents the events that took place immediately following Adam and Eve's sin.

Here in this passage is the first promise of God's plan to send a Deliverer.

Considered in this lesson:

- God's omniscience —
He saw Adam and Eve.
- God's love —
He called Adam.
- God's holiness —
He cursed the serpent, Adam and Eve, and the ground.
- Man's sin —
All men are descendant of Adam; therefore, all sin.
- God's grace —
He promised to send a Deliverer.



Romans
5:12-21;
8:20-22

I Corinthi-
ans
15:21, 22

LESSON PREPARATION

This section is for you, the teacher.

The passages in the Scripture Reference column are for your own study in preparing for this lesson. Since they may contain concepts that run ahead of the lesson, they are not to be taught at this point.

Note: If you have not taught previously from this series of lessons, please read carefully the note to teachers in the front of this book.

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 3:9-20

LESSON GOALS:

- To show that God knows everything and will punish all sin.
- To show that God would not allow Satan to have a permanent victory in leading man to sin, but that God would send a Deliverer who would overcome Satan and deliver mankind from Satan's power.
- To show the horrible, lasting results of sin.
- To show that man cannot save himself from sin.

THIS LESSON SHOULD HELP THE STUDENTS:

- To realize that no one can get away with sin.
- To realize that God has made a way to overcome Satan.
- To realize that all the problems in the world have come as a result of sin.

PERSPECTIVE FOR THE TEACHER:

You might say that this lesson explains the "mess we are in." We often hear men and women blaming God for their problems and for the problems of the world around them. But Genesis 3 states the truth of the matter very clearly: man's own sin is the cause of man's problems. Children need to know this truth.

Remember that sinners do have reason to fear God's wrath, so in your teaching do not diminish the awful consequences of sin. The introduction of God's grace and His promise to send a Deliverer will be meaningful only if you have clearly taught: (1) man's original position of friendship with his loving Creator and owner, God, (2) the awfulness of man's rebellion and disobedience to God, and (3) the horrible and sure consequences of that sin.

Many people in our society feel that they deserve forgiveness. It is common for children to learn this idea very early in life. But God is holy and righteous and has decreed that the punishment for sin is death. His provision of a Savior is the supreme act of His grace — totally unmerited favor.

VISUALS:

- Visual showing that Adam and all of Adam's descendants would die
- Poster 5, "Deliverer"; Poster 6, "Mercy"; and Poster 7, "Grace"
- Poster 1, "Learning About God" — Use this to emphasize themes.

SPECIAL PREPARATION:

- Make copies for your class of the **Lesson 11 Review Sheet** and **Skit 11** (at the end of this lesson). Provide pencils for the children.
 - Photocopy **visual** (at end of lesson) — use as small poster or for overhead transparency.
 - Prepare for any activity you select from the **Suggestions for Activities** (at the end of this lesson). As you select activities, remember to allow sufficient time to teach the outlined lesson material.
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ON TEACHING THIS LESSON:

You are carefully laying a scriptural foundation on which the Gospel will later be presented. Each lesson builds on previous lessons, so be sure to cover each point carefully.

DON'T COMPLICATE THE MESSAGE!

As you teach, keep in mind that this is a directed study — not an exhaustive survey of the Bible. Keep your lesson on track and moving ahead by limiting and directing any discussion.

Carefully follow the outline. Emphasize the doctrinal themes.

LESSON FORMAT: The **center column** below contains the lesson material to be taught to the students. The **bold outline headings** are only for reference and need not be spoken, as they are incorporated into the outlined material that follows. The material in the **side columns** is for the teacher's own reference and is not intended to be included in the lesson.

TO BE TAUGHT TO THE STUDENTS

(Center Column Only)

LESSON OUTLINE:

REVIEW Lesson 10, using Lesson 11 Review Sheet.

PERFORM Skit 11. Note: "Uncle Don's" part should be read by an adult.

A. Introduction

Let's listen carefully as we study God's response to Adam and Eve's sin.

Keep in mind:

- God had created them — in His own image and for His glory.
- They belonged to Him.
- He loved them.
- He had given them everything they could ever need.
- He had warned them of the consequences of disobedience.
- They had chosen to disobey Him.

B. God called Adam.



Theme: God communicates with man.



READ Genesis 3:9.

Because Adam and Eve didn't come to talk with God, God called out, "Adam, where are you?"

Scripture
References

II Peter
3:9

- Why did God call out?
 - Didn't He know where they were hiding?
 - Isn't He everywhere?
 - Wasn't He there beside them among the trees?
 - Couldn't He see them all of the time?
- Yes, God could see Adam and Eve where they were hiding.
- Why then did He call Adam?
 - God called Adam because, although God intended to punish Adam and Eve for their sin, He still **loved** them.
 - God was giving them the opportunity **to agree with Him that they were wrong** in believing Satan instead of Him.

God has not changed; He still calls today even though we cannot hear His voice like Adam did.

- How does God call to us today?
 - God calls us through all the things we can see around us.
 - *Illustrate:*
Every day, God's voice is saying to us, "Listen to Me. I am the Creator of all things. I am the true God. I know everything. I am almighty. Look at all the things I have created for you. I love you. Look at all of the food I have made for you. I love you. Look at the life I have given to you. I love you. Listen to Me and seek Me."
 - Every time we see the things God has created, He wants us to think of Him.
 - But God is not only speaking to us through the things He has made; He is also calling us through His Word.
 - The Bible is God's message to each one of us.
- God really wants each one of us to know Him!

Psalms
19:1-3

Romans
1:16,17

John
17:3

Philippians
3:10

C. Adam and Eve tried to hide from God.



Theme: God knows everything.



READ Genesis 3:10.

Adam and Eve were afraid of God because they had disobeyed Him.

- Compare:
 - Have you ever hidden when you did something wrong?*
 - Why did you hide? You hid because you were ashamed and because you were afraid that you would be punished!*
 - Adam and Eve were ashamed, and they were afraid too.*

Adam and Eve had reason to be afraid.

- They knew what they had done.
- And they knew what God had told them would happen if they disobeyed Him.

D. God questioned Adam.



READ Genesis 3:11.

God questioned Adam and Eve in order to give them an opportunity to repent, that is, to change their minds and agree with God that they had done the wrong thing.

- God had the right to question Adam because He created him.

God created Adam and then made Eve from Adam's rib.

They both belonged to God.

He created them to love and obey Him.

- God also gives life to us and all people.
- Acts 17:25 says, "...he giveth to all life, and breath...."

He is our rightful owner.

Adam and Eve had to answer to God for what they did, and we, too, will all have to answer to Him for everything we have thought and done during our lives.



READ Hebrews 4:13.

God sees everything.

He knows everything we have done.

E. Adam and Eve tried to pass the blame.



Theme: Man is a sinner. He needs God and is helpless to save himself.



Theme: God is holy and righteous. He demands death as the payment for sin.



READ Genesis 3:12,13.

Adam put the blame on Eve.

Eve blamed the serpent.

But God already knew everything that had happened; nothing is hidden from Him.

- Compare:

Have you ever blamed someone else for something you did wrong? Have you ever been blamed for something that someone else did?

We may try to pass the blame onto someone else, as Adam and Eve tried to do; but God knows everything and will not allow anyone to escape punishment by blaming someone else.

F. God's curse on the serpent



Theme: God is holy and righteous. He demands death as the payment for sin.



READ Genesis 3:14.

God cursed the serpent because it had been used by Satan.

- God does not tell us what the serpent was like before Satan used it to deceive Eve, but we know it did not slide on its belly when God first created it.
- But now God said it must slide on its belly and eat dust.

Scripture
References

God knew it was Satan who spoke through the serpent to tempt Eve.

— God knows everything that Satan and his evil spirits think and plan to do.

— They can't hide anything from God.

God will punish Satan and all of his followers for all their evil deeds and their horrible disobedience to God.

G. The promised Seed of the woman

Once Adam and Eve disobeyed God and followed the advice of Satan, they were separated from God and controlled by Satan.

— They were no longer the children of God.

— They were Satan's children.

Satan had become the god of this world.

— At this point, Satan probably thought that he had beaten God and that he would now have complete control of the world and all people.

— This was what Satan had wanted.

But no one can win against God.

— God is the almighty Creator.

God promised that He would send a deliverer who would overcome Satan and deliver mankind from his power. ²

— Do you know what a deliverer is?

SHOW POSTER, "DELIVERER." [Read the definition several times and have the children say it until they are understanding what the word means.]

— A deliverer is someone who rescues us or saves us — a deliverer sets us free.



READ Genesis 3:15.

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

A virgin is a woman who has never married or lived as the wife of a man.

Notice that it does not say "their" offspring.

The man is not even mentioned in this verse.

— When we read of crushing the "head," this is a picture of crushing the leadership or authority of a great power.

When the "head" is crushed, the body cannot survive.

But the one whose "heel" is crushed survives, even though he has been wounded.

— Explain:

The Deliverer would fight against Satan, and the Deliverer would win. Satan would fight against the Deliverer and wound Him, but Satan would not be able to win over Him. This promised Deliverer would destroy Satan and deliver mankind from Satan's power so man would again be in oneness with God.



Theme: God is loving, merciful, and gracious.

Ephesians
2:1, 2

John
12:31

II Corinthi-
ans
4:4

Isaiah
7:14

Luke
1:27

² The introduction of the Deliverer opens up the possibility of many comments from your students. They may ask if Jesus is the Deliverer, to which the reply is, "Yes!"

Let them know that you are eager to talk about Jesus Christ, too, and that you will be glad to talk with any who are interested after class. For right now, though, you will just go on with the story from Genesis. □

By studying Genesis 1 and 2, we have already learned many things about God!

READ DOWN THE ENTIRE POSTER, "LEARNING ABOUT GOD" — EXCEPT, READ ONLY, "God is loving...." Leave the rest of this attribute for the next statement:

— Now we also see that God is gracious and merciful.



READ Psalm 145:8.

Grace and mercy are two wonderful words.

SHOW POSTERS, "GRACE," AND "MERCY."

- "Grace" is God's kindness to undeserving sinners.
- "Mercy" is God's way for sinners to escape the punishment they deserve!
- Explain:

We know from what we have learned about God that He always punishes sin. But in His great love, God promised to make a special way out by sending a Deliverer so that man could be saved from the punishment he deserved.

He could have just left Adam and Eve to die and go to everlasting punishment. That is what they deserved. But God promised a Savior who would deliver them and all mankind from Satan's control and bring them back to God.

H. God's curse on the woman



READ Genesis 3:16.

God spoke to Eve and told her that because she had disobeyed Him:

- She and all future mothers would suffer in childbirth.
- Her husband would have authority over her.

I. God's curse on the man and on the earth



READ Genesis 3:17-19.

Adam had foolishly listened to Eve instead of obeying what God had said to him.

- Adam knew what God had said.
- But he was willing to follow Eve's suggestion rather than to do what he knew to be God's will.

Because Adam and Eve listened to Satan, they fell into his trap and disobeyed God.

Therefore, God said that from that time the ground would be cursed.

— Compare:

Before Adam sinned, everything grew without Adam doing any hard work. Weeds didn't grow; there were no pests.

But when Adam sinned, God cursed the earth. Many weeds began to grow. This made Adam's work difficult.

The results of sin affected not only Adam and Eve but also the lovely garden God had given them.

Isaiah
45:18

In fact, **all the bad things in the world exist because of disobedience to God.**

— Satan and his followers disobeyed God and now roam the earth.

— When man disobeyed, his sin affected all of God's creation.

Why should man's sin have affected all creation?

— God had made the earth for man.

— Because He loved man, God gave man everything he needed.

— He wanted man to live in friendship with Him forever.

But now man had disobeyed God.

— Man had rejected God's love for him.

— Part of the consequence was that man would no longer live in a perfect world.

We live in a world that still suffers from that curse.

— People constantly struggle against sickness, pain, weakness, pain in childbearing, hard work, difficult weather conditions, animal and insect pests, weeds, sorrow, grief and death.

When He created Adam and Eve, God did not intend for them to die.

— But now Adam and Eve must die because of their disobedience to God.

— The punishment for sin is death.

Adam's body must die, just as God had said.

— God had made Adam from the dust of the ground.

— Because Adam sinned, God told Adam that his body must die and go back again to the earth.

J. Adam and Eve are the parents of all people.



READ Genesis 3:20.

Even though people have different colors of skin, we all originally came from the same parents, Adam and Eve. ³

Acts 17:26 says that God "*made of one blood all nations of men.*"

— Eve is the first woman and the mother of every human being.

— Adam is the father of us all.

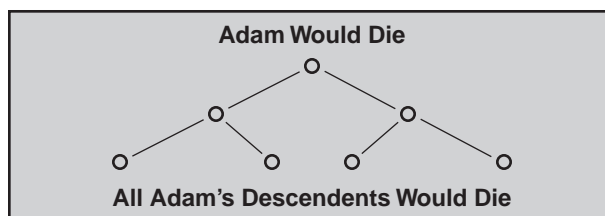
Adam was separated from God because he turned away from obeying Him.

— Adam's sin ruined his perfect relationship with God and also the perfection of the earth that God had given him to live in.

— His sin set off a chain of sorrows.

Because of Adam's sin, he would die, and all his children would also die.

Suggested Graphic:



³ This point is very important
— don't skip over it. □

Romans 5:12 says that, "...by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men...."

All people in every country die because we are all the descendants of Adam.

K. Conclusion

The devil did not "make them do it."

- Adam and Eve knew what God had said.
- And they knew that God loved them.
- But they disobeyed Him anyway.

Sin brought terrible consequences.

- We live with those consequences every day.
- In the Bible we have seen how all the sorrows of life began.
- But God, in the very beginning, promised to send the Deliverer — someone to rescue man from Satan, sin and death.

QUESTIONS:

1. Did God call Adam because God didn't know where Adam and Eve were? *No, God knew where they were. God wanted them to voluntarily come to Him and admit their sin.*
2. Can anyone hide from God? *No, God sees us at all times, no matter where we are.*
3. Why did God have the right to call Adam and question him?
 - a. *God was Adam's Creator.*
 - b. *Adam and Eve belonged to God.*
4. Why does God have the right to demand obedience? *Because He gave life to everyone.*
5. What was God's curse on the snake? *From that time, it was to move by crawling on its belly.*
6. Whom did God promise to send? *God promised to send the Deliverer.*
7. How was this Deliverer to come? *Through the seed of the woman.*
8. What did God say that the virgin's Son would do? *He would overcome Satan and deliver man from death and Satan's power.*
9. Why did God promise to send the Deliverer? *Because God loves all people.*
10. Did Adam and Eve deserve God's love and His promise of a Deliverer? *No, they deserved to go to everlasting punishment.*
11. What evidence is there in the world today of God's curse on Adam and Eve and on the ground? *Sickness, sorrow, birth pains, death, hard work, thorns and weeds, droughts, devastating storms, poisonous plants, animal and insect pests. These are all signs of God's curse.*
12. Who were the first parents of all people? *Adam and Eve.*
13. Why do all people die? *Because Adam disobeyed God, all Adam's descendants die.*

LESSON 11 — Suggestions for Activities

Be sure to allow time to teach the lesson first!

Listed below are carefully designed activities which will help reinforce and focus on the themes you have taught in the lesson. Choose from this list whatever best suits your students and prepare ahead accordingly. The children may participate in these activities during the time remaining after the lesson has been taught.

1. Memory Verse — Proverbs 9:10

Encourage the children to memorize this verse. Point out: This is what God says about wisdom.

2. Who's Calling You?

Draw the children's attention to things they commonly see and hear that are God's call to people today.

You could do this activity in several ways. You could take a field trip outside your classroom, or you could bring items to your classroom.

As you point out each item (bird, tree, sky, kitten, person, flower, the Bible, a book in a library about the Bible, etc.), ask questions such as:

Where did this flower come from? Who created the original flower from which the seed came for this flower? How is this flower God's call to us? (When we see flowers, we are reminded that God is the Creator, that God is powerful, that God is a God of order, etc. Seeing what God has created helps us know what God is like.)

Who remembers how we got the Bible? Who is the author of the Bible? Why did God give us the Bible? How is the Bible God's call to us? (The Bible is God's message to us. In it, we learn about Him.)

Reinforce that God communicates with man.

3. Why Did They Hide?

Write out several typical children's scenarios (samples below) which will help to illustrate why Adam and Eve tried to hide from God. Pass the scenarios out to the children. Have each child read his aloud and answer the question.

Sample scenarios:

Tommy broke his mom's favorite vase and hid the pieces. Why did he hide the pieces?

Ginger and Marie played across the road in a place where they weren't supposed to go. When their parents asked them what they'd been doing, they lied. Why did they hide the truth?

Discuss:

Why do people try to hide when they do wrong?

Why did Adam and Eve hide? Did they have a reason to be afraid?

Reinforce that man is a sinner and that God demands death as the punishment for sin.

Discuss:

Did God know what Adam and Eve had done?
Could anyone hide from God?

Reinforce that God knows everything.

4. Mercy and Grace

Before class, prepare handout sheets with the words MERCY and GRACE. Use some sort of fancy lettering which the children can decorate or color. Lettering could be calligraphy or just block letters. Have the children decorate or color their sheets as you discuss God's mercy and grace.

Discuss:

Had Adam and Eve sinned? What punishment did they deserve for their sin?

God made a special promise to Adam and Eve. Do you remember that special promise? (That He would send the Deliverer to save them from the punishment they deserved.) Did Adam and Eve deserve God's love and His promise of the Deliverer? (No, they deserved to go to everlasting punishment.)

God's promise to Adam and Eve shows His MERCY and His GRACE. What is GRACE? (God's kindness to undeserving sinners.) What is MERCY? (God's way for sinners to escape the punishment they deserve.)

Reinforce that God is loving, merciful and gracious.

5. Consequences

Provide supplies for the children to make posters showing how Adam's sin has affected all creation. The children could draw pictures or make a collage using pictures from magazines.

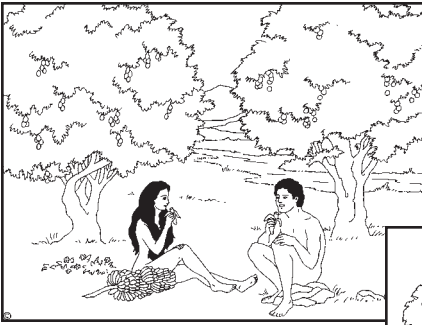
Discuss:

Do you remember what God said would happen if Adam and Eve ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil? (They would die!)

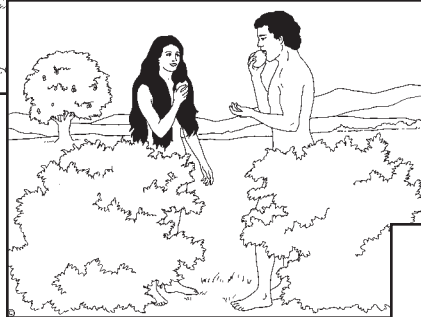
Today we have also learned that there were other consequences as well. Let's make posters showing how our world today still suffers from the curse. (Remind them that people constantly struggle against sickness, pain, weakness, pain in child-bearing, hard work, difficult weather conditions, animal and insect pests, weeds, sorrow, grief and death.)

Reinforce that the penalty for sin is death. Because of Adam's sin, he would die, and all his descendants would die.

Name _____



Adam and Eve Disobeyed God



1. When Satan came to deceive Eve, did he let her know who was talking to her? YES NO
2. God told Adam that, if they ate the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they would surely die. But Satan told Eve they would not. What was Satan suggesting God to be? _____.
3. Does Satan still try to trick us today? YES NO
4. God said that Adam and Eve would die if they ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Satan said they would not die. Who spoke the truth? _____
5. Adam and Eve did not fall dead immediately when they ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God had said that they would die for their disobedience. He meant that:
They would be _____ from God, their friend and source of life.
Their _____ would eventually die.
They would eventually be separated from God forever in the _____.
6. When Adam and Eve realized they were naked, they made clothes of fig leaves for themselves.
They should have asked _____ for help instead.
7. What did Adam and Eve do when they heard God coming to see them? They _____.

Use this WORD BANK to fill in the answers to the questions above:
bodies God a liar Lake of Fire hid God separated

Knowing God: God is always true. He loves us.

Knowing the Enemy: Satan is a liar and a deceiver. He hates God and man.



skit

God's Promise and Curse

Readers: Uncle Don, Travis, Jessica

Jessica:

Did you hear what happened to Travis yesterday?

Travis:

Jessica!

Uncle Don:

It's all right, Travis, your mom called me and told me about it. How is your hand?

Travis:

It hurts — a lot.

Uncle Don:

You are really bandaged up! I don't think you'll forget that experience for as long as you live.

Travis:

I'd like to.

Uncle Don:

Yes, I imagine you would. I'm glad your dad was there to help you. I thought he wasn't coming back until today. He must have surprised you.

Jessica:

Their meetings were over a day early and he flew back yesterday afternoon.

Travis:

It was awful. I had just turned on the saw. I was going to make a neat present for Dad. Then Jessica hollered at me and scared me. It was her fault!

Jessica:

Travis! It was **your** fault! You disobeyed Dad!

Travis:

I don't think the saw is made right. You shouldn't be able to cut yourself on it.

Uncle Don:

Are you sure it wasn't **my** fault?

Travis:

What do you mean? Oh, I guess I **am** blaming everyone else. It **was** my fault. Anyway, when Jessica hollered, I bumped the saw blade with my hand. It was awful! Somehow, I got the saw turned off. And just then Dad drove up.

Uncle Don:

What did you do, Travis?

Travis:

I didn't know what to do. I tried to hide, but I was bleeding too much. Dad just wrapped a towel around my hand and took me right to the hospital. It was scary.

Jessica:

Mom and I were scared too. We had to wait so long for Dad to call from the hospital to tell us you were okay!

Uncle Don:

What did the doctor tell you?

Travis:

Well, he said it was really bad. He said I nearly lost the use of my thumb, and I may always have problems with it.

Uncle Don:

Travis, do you realize what happened?

Travis:

What do you mean?

Uncle Don:

Do you realize that your disobedience nearly cost you part of the use of your hand?

Jessica:

It could have killed him.

Uncle Don:

Yes, if someone hadn't been there to help you, you could have bled to death. Travis, I hate to see that you've been hurt so badly, but maybe it will help you see the seriousness of sin. That's just what we're going to study about in Genesis. There are consequences to sin, and I'm afraid you are facing some of them.

Jessica:

That's what Dad told him when they got home.

Travis:

You know something? I was so afraid that Dad was going to be mad at me. But he didn't say hardly anything on the way to the hospital. He just kept looking over at me and asking me if I was doing all right.

Uncle Don:

Your Dad loves you, Travis.

Travis:

I know. He promised to teach me to use the saw one day, when I get older. He did bawl me out when we got home, but he did something I've never seen him do. He and mom cried.

Jessica:

We all cried.

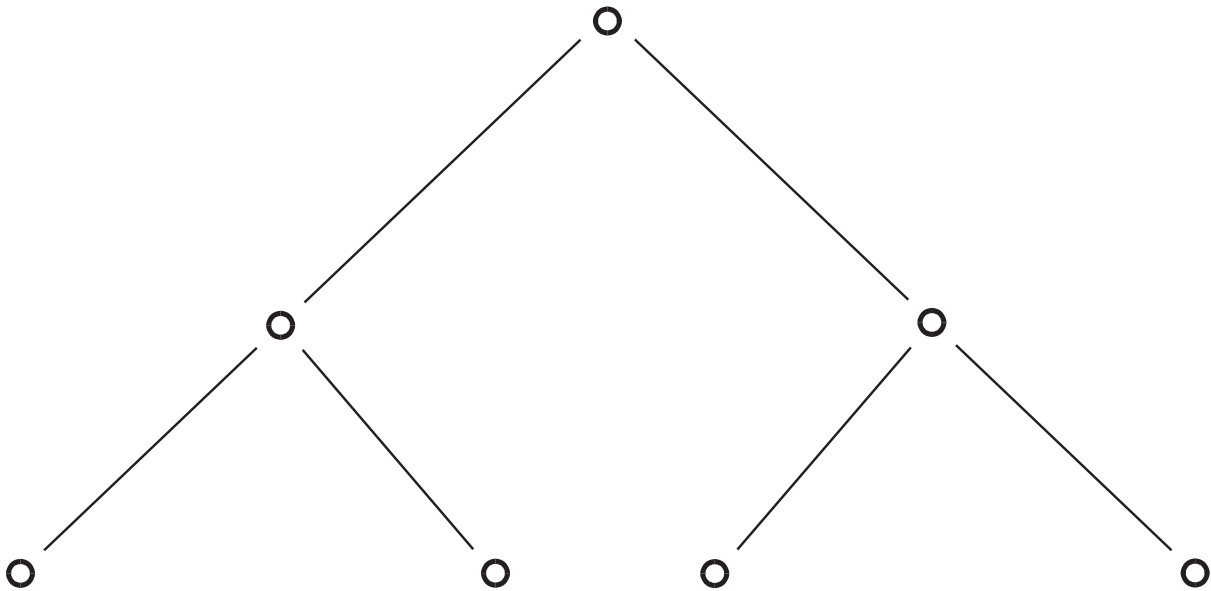
Uncle Don:

Travis, sin affects everyone. We're going to read about Adam and Eve, and I want you to see how they acted and how God responded to their sin. I think that you will identify a little with what happened. And God made a promise too — a wonderful promise for sinners.





Adam Would Die



All Adam's Descendants Would Die

