

Lessons in Life -- Lesson 19 – God’s Provision for Their Sin

Notes And Helps to Instructors

Thank you for volunteering to lead a group through the treasures of God’s word! You may feel overwhelmed or inadequate, but you can do this! The leader notes are designed to help you grow in knowledge and love for Christ and for you to help pass what you have received to your group. Here are some suggestions to help equip you to grow in your teaching and leading ability.

- These lessons could simply be read, and a group would receive something but that is not how they are designed. The notes are designed to grow you as a leader so you might tailor the lesson for the needs of your group. Some groups may not have much of a knowledge base in the bible, so the concepts must be brought down to their level. Other groups may have a large knowledge base and you may challenge them with more information. The key is to know your group. If you begin leading a group in one way and find that it is not connecting, it is alright to modify and bring down or raise up the level of information.
- The more preparation you do the stronger you will be as a leader. Let the study material be a joy for you! Let it feed you as you prepare! The more you are fed the more you have to give to your group.
- There is no set time on how long a lesson may take. Lessons could be slowed down and take several weeks to finish. Perhaps in leading a group, one question captivates the group and leads to a fruitful conversation. If that happens, that is good! You are in no hurry. If you can finish the material in a week, then great! But if it takes several, that is great as well! The important thing is that they receive deeply from the gospel of Jesus.
- Pray about your lesson! Pray as you prepare! Pray as you teach! Remember we do not teach or exercise our gifts in our own strength. The Holy Spirit is the one who opens the heart and mind. Pray for the Spirit to move in your heart and the heart of the group.

May our merciful Triune God bless your study and your group that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith-- that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

In Christ,

Prison Discipleship Ministry

Lessons in Life -- Lesson 19 – God’s Provision for Their Sin

Introduction: Re-read Genesis 3:1-19. In this lesson on Genesis 3:20-21 we will look at God’s provision for their sin.

Read this passage at least five times then answer the questions as best you can:

²⁰ And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

²¹ Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them. (Gen. 3:20-21 NKJ)

If God calls Eve “the mother of all living,” what does this tell us about evolution? About racism?

In connection with 3:20 read Romans 5:12, 18-21. If Eve is our mother and Adam our father, what does this tell us about why we sin?

Was there death before Adam and Eve? What does death tell us about God? About our sin? Why do babies die?

What did Adam and Eve use for their first covering (3:7)? What did God make to cover them? What is significant about the differences?

What is required to make “tunics of skin”? Read Hebrews 9:22. What is God teaching Adam and Eve about sin?

How does this lesson God is teaching Adam and Eve point to Jesus Christ?

Lessons in Life -- Lesson 19 – God’s Provision for Their Sin

How many times did Christ need to die? Read Hebrews 7:27; 9:26-28; 10:10.

Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. When the church celebrates the death of Christ by observing the Lord’s Supper, are we re-sacrificing Christ? What does Paul say we do at the Lord’s Supper?

How does this passage give hope despite God’s curses?

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21 Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them. (Gen. 3:20-21 NKJ)

If God calls Eve “the mother of all living,” what does this tell us about evolution? About racism?

The fact that all humanity came from Eve, our first parent tells us much. First, it tells us that humans did not evolve from other living life forms. The process of evolution as outlined by so much of academia does not pass the test of science itself, common sense, or scriptural revelation. Humanity was created by God, in the image of God (Gen 1:27). There was or has been no process of evolution to create humanity.

The fact that we all came from Eve also tell us much about racism. Racism and bigotry based on race is the sin of partiality applied to race and culture (James 2:1-9). But the fact that we all came from our first parents means several things. First, there is no such thing as “race.” There is only one race, the human race. All nations came from one man (Acts 17:26). Race is nothing more than a cultural construct that fallen humanity invented to describe the cultural experience of other cultural groups in our world. Second, it means that there is no scriptural, natural, or common-sense reason for racist or bigoted thoughts or actions as there is no such thing as race. Since, we are of one blood, then racism or bigotry, which is the sin of partiality, is condemned by scripture and by nature.

In connection with 3:20 read Romans 5:12, 18-21. If Eve is our mother and Adam our father, what does this tell us about why we sin?

We do not sin and that makes us sinners. We sin because we are sinners. Sin is not something that comes from outside of us. It is something that comes from inside of us. Temptations to sin only land and take root in our heart because we have sinful hearts. James 1:13-15 tells us,

“13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”

Lessons in Life -- Lesson 19 – God’s Provision for Their Sin

Further, Jesus tells us in Mark 7:21-23,

“21 For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, 22 coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. 23 All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

So, Romans 5:12 tells us, “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.” We are all born sinners. We are all born with the imputed guilt of Adam’s sin, and the inherited corruption of our sinful hearts.

Was there death before Adam and Eve? What does death tell us about God? About our sin? Why do babies die?

We are born sinners. And the proof that we are born sinners is, since the wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23), and God told Adam that on the day he ate of the fruit he would die (Gen 2:17), the fact that we all die proves that we are sinners. This is why even babies die. From the moment of their conception, babies are sinners (Psalm 51:5). Babies are born with the same sinful hearts as all humanity and born under the same guilt as Adam.

Death tells us much about God. First of all, God is life. Death is the absence of life. God is not the God of death; he is the God of life. Man’s goal in the garden; the goal of humanity from the beginning of creation, was eternal life with God. When sin came, so did death. The appropriate punishment for sins against an eternal God is an eternal punishment. Death is not therefore natural to creation. That is why we weep at funerals. We know that the most unnatural thing in the world is for a human body to die.

Death is an enemy, and it has been conquered by Christ when he conquered death and rose from the grave on the third day. When he comes again on the last day, the last enemy to be put under his feet will be death (1 Cor 15:26). At that time death itself will be thrown into the lake of fire, where it will touch God’s people no more (Rev 20:14; 21:4). Death matters so much to God that he sent his own Son to destroy it for his people.

What did Adam and Eve use for their first covering (3:7)? What did God make to cover them? What is significant about the differences?

Adam and Eve tried to cover the guilt and shame of their sin by making tunics of fig leaves. But, like a garment of leaves would not cover their nakedness, so human works cannot cover our sin, only God can. So, God killed an animal and made garments from

Lessons in Life -- Lesson 19 – God’s Provision for Their Sin

the skin of the animal. The difference is stark. Human works cannot cover the shame of our nakedness because of sin. God must clothe us. Only then can our nakedness be truly covered.

What is required to make “tunics of skin”? Read Hebrews 9:22. What is God teaching Adam and Eve about sin?

To make a tunic of skin, an animal must die. The animal must shed its blood and give its life to cover another. Hebrews 9:22 says, “Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.” This echoes what God told the children of Israel in Leviticus 17:11, “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.”

God is teaching Adam and Eve through killing an animal to cover them several things. First, he is teaching them that sin is ugly. Sin can only be redeemed through a messy, bloody process of death. Sin is not beautiful, it is ugly, messy, and terrible. Second, sin is costly. For sin to be covered it requires the highest of cost, death. Death is the ultimate price one would pay for anything. Sin is so costly it took the life of the Son of God. Jesus paid the ultimate price anyone can pay to redeem his people. Third, sin is deadly. Sin kills. Either one takes the death of another in your place, or you will pay the death required for your sin, which is eternal, spiritual death.

How does this lesson God is teaching Adam and Eve point to Jesus Christ?

When Adam and Eve remember the promise that God would crush the head of the serpent and the cost of that crushing would be the death of the one who crushed him (Gen 3:15), they are now pointed to another picture of death for sin. So, it is taught to them that the cost of sin is death. Either we will die for our sins because God is just, or someone else must die to pay for our sins. And so Jesus is the one who would come, the seed of woman, who would crush Satan’s head and defeat death once and for all for his people. This taught them to look to the one God would send to take away their sin and death. It taught them to repent of their sins, see their need for the righteousness of God, and put their trust in the promise of the deliverer that God would send.

That same lesson is for us and now much clearer since Christ has come. We are sinners, so we are called to repent of our sins and place our trust in Christ, the one who died for our sins and was raised from the dead for our justification.

How many times did Christ need to die? Read Hebrews 7:27; 9:26-28; 10:10.

Hebrews 7:27

Lessons in Life -- Lesson 19 – God’s Provision for Their Sin

“He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. (ESV)”

Hebrews 9:26-28

“26 for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, 28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. (ESV)”

Hebrews 10:10

“And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (ESV)”

All these verses tell us that Christ died once for all. His death never has to be repeated or re-presented. Jesus has died once for all, has risen once for all, and will return on the last day once for all.

Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. When the church celebrates the death of Christ by observing the Lord’s Supper, are we re-sacrificing Christ? What does Paul say we do at the Lord’s Supper?

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

“23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” 25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. (ESV)”

The Westminster Shorter Catechism helpfully defines the Lord’s Supper this way:

“Q. 96. What is the Lord’s supper?”

A. The Lord’s supper is a sacrament, wherein, by giving and receiving bread and wine according to Christ’s appointment, his death is showed forth; and the worthy receivers are, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith, made

Lessons in Life -- Lesson 19 – God’s Provision for Their Sin

partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace.”

Notice that in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 there is nothing about re-sacrificing or re-presenting the work of Jesus on the cross.¹ Paul tells us that the Lord’s Supper is a time of remembrance of what Jesus has done for us on the cross. When we take the bread, we remember and receive once again the truth that everything Jesus has done in his body, in His life, death, and resurrection is ours by faith. When we take the wine, we remember that Jesus’ blood has washed away all our sins and we are forgiven by His shed blood. And that blood never dries out or loses its effective power for us as Jesus lives eternally at the right hand of His Father presenting His work for us, His people. We are also reminded and remember that Jesus will come again. We grow in our longing for the return of Christ where all our enemies will finally be put under His feet and we will have in full, what we now have truly by faith.

How does this passage give hope despite God’s curses?

Ask them why this passage gives them hope. Let the Spirit apply the text to their heart and allow the Comforter to comfort them. But if they do not know, then this may help.

This passage gives us hope because it reminds us that yes, we live in this cursed world, but the curse will not win. Eve is the mother of all living, not the mother of all death. We have hope of eternal life through the One who succeeded where Adam and Eve failed. In the work of Christ, He has perfectly upheld the righteousness needed for eternal life and bore the fullness of the curse of sin, death, and the devil on the cross for His people. And we have hope that by the grace of God alone, through faith in Christ alone, He will clothe us with His righteousness, and take our sin-stained garments upon Himself. He tasted the curse of death for us, so we may taste for eternity the eternal life He earned, and we were created to have with God.

¹ If you have Roman Catholics in your class, they may question this statement. The answer is somewhat complicated. We recommend talking with PDM staff about how to respond.