

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 5 – Sin Comes to Eden Part 2

Introduction: In this Lesson in Life, we continue our study in the beginning of problems we face by studying Genesis 3:2-3. Last week we looked at the serpent’s question to Eve and what it teaches us about Satan’s temptations. This week we look at Eve’s response, and we learn how we fall for Satan’s temptations.

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

^{KJV} **Genesis 3:1** Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

² And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: ³ But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. (Gen. 3:1-3 KJV)

In Genesis 3:2-3, how does Eve change what God had said (Genesis 2:15-17)?

What God said Gen. 2:15-17	What Eve said Gen. 3:2-3	How does Eve change God’s Word?
¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat ;	"We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;	She minimizes the _____
¹⁷ "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat,	³ "but of the fruit of the tree which <i>is</i> in the midst of the garden, God has said, `You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it,	She maximizes the _____
for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die. "	lest you die	She minimizes the

How has the serpent’s strategy of exaggerating God’s word and phrasing it in the form of a question (Genesis 3:1) affected Eve?

What does Eve’s minimizing and maximizing God’s Word tell us about her doubts of God’s goodness?

Think about your own life. Can you list one area of your life where you have believed a lie of Satan? How has this belief brought death into your life?

Spend a few minutes meditating on Isaiah 57:15. Then honestly and humbly lay your sins before God. Remember, He is near the humble.

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

^{NKJ} **Genesis 3:1** Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;

³ "but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" (Gen. 3:1-3 NKJ)

[Note to teachers: Review Genesis 1-3 up to this point. You can never go over this material too much. The fundamentals of the Christian faith are laid out here and need to be pressed upon the minds and hearts of your students. It does not hurt to go into the next verses as well. They will be covered again in the next lesson, but one can never talk about these matters too much.]

In Genesis 3:2-3, how does Eve change what God had said (Genesis 2:15-17)?

What God said Gen. 2:15-17	What Eve said Gen. 3:2-3	How does Eve change God’s Word?
¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat ;	"We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;	She minimizes the <i>Freedom—“freely eat”</i>
¹⁷ "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat,	³ "but of the fruit of the tree which <i>is</i> in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it ,	She maximizes the <i>Restriction and is vague about which tree</i>
for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die. "	lest (for fear that or so that you should not) you die	She minimizes the <i>Penalty – She leaves out “surely”</i>

		<i>She also leaves out "in the day" which implies immediate penalty.</i>
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How has the serpent’s strategy of exaggerating God’s word and phrasing it in the form of a question (Genesis 3:1) affected Eve?

The first thing out of Satan’s mouth was a question to make her doubt God’s word. Humanity was created to be receivers of God’s revelation, interpreters of God’s world, and reflectors and worshippers of God’s glory. This question was designed to make them doubt that they heard God correctly. And he did so in such a way that made them question God’s goodness. Did God say you shall not eat of ANY tree? You can hear Satan say, “how unreasonable and mean of God to say you can’t eat of ANY tree of the garden!”

What does Eve’s minimizing and maximizing God’s Word tell us about her doubts of God’s goodness?

She added words to God, “neither shall you touch it.” God never said that. For all God cared, you could have gone up and climbed the tree, picked the fruit, juggled them, and threw them at Adam for fun. They were simply told not to eat the fruit of the tree. In putting this added restriction (whether it came from her own mind, or was a man-made law that Adam came up with, does not matter. God did not put that restriction on them. She made God more restrictive, harsh, and seemingly needlessly pedantic (overly concerned with minute details). This played right into the hands of Satan. He already got her heart going down the road he wanted. She now already mistrusted God’s word; the dominos of her heart have now started falling.

“To have suspicions of God and His goodness is a wicked insult to His majesty.” H. C. Leupold

Is it wrong to have questions as we read the Bible? It depends. If we are reading or listening to find fault, then we are insulting God’s majesty and sinning greatly. On the other hand, if we are asking questions to learn and clarify the true meaning because we value that Word, then we are doing a godly thing.

Think about your own life. Can you list one area of your life where you have believed a lie of Satan? How has this belief brought death into your life?

There are lots of places they could go here. In fact, the places they could go are infinite. Listen and let them speak. Let them share and reflect. Do not rush here; let the spirit work.

If they need some help, here are some suggestions:

Read Proverbs 23:29-35. What is the lie of doing alcohol and drugs?

Read Proverbs 7:6-27. What is the lie that the immoral woman tells? (compare 2:10-22; 5:1-6; 15-23; 6:20-29; 9:13-18)

Read Proverbs 6:6-11; 26:12-16. What is the lie of the lazy man?

Be careful not to seed ideas so they only say what you are looking for. Let the Spirit search them and let him bring to light these issues. You may be surprised how reflective people become. But if they are not able to come up with ideas, then please suggest, or even show them how by sharing something from your own life. Show them what reflection of the heart with the Spirit looks like.

REMEMBER: WE ARE NOT THOSE WHO HAVE ARRIVED IN THE PERFECTION OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. WE ARE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST AS WELL. WE NEED CHRIST JUST LIKE THEY DO. SHOW THEM WHAT DISCIPLESHIP WITH CHRIST IN THE SPIRIT LOOKS LIKE AS SOMEONE WHO LIVES BY IT. NOT AS AN EXPERT WHO HAS RISEN ABOVE THEIR NEED FOR REPENTANT REFLECTION WITH THE SPIRIT IN OUR HEART.

Spend a few minutes meditating on Isaiah 57:15. Then honestly and humbly lay your sins before God. Remember, He is near the humble.

¹⁵ For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name *is* Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy *place*, With him *who* has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones. (Isa. 57:15 NKJ)

This is a verse that we should continually teach our students and press on their conscience. This verse speaks of the two basic realities of the LORD God Himself. Those realities are:

1. His transcendence – He is high and lofty.
2. His eternality -- He inhabits eternity (He is eternal).
3. His holiness -- He is holy.
4. His imminence – He dwells (makes His home with) the one who has a contrite (one who shows sorrow over his sin) and humble (honest about the reality of his sinful humanness) before the transcendent God.

What does Isaiah 57:15 tells us about how we can experience God's help in our lives?

What does "dwell" mean in this verse?

Where can one find God's help?

If I feel that God is far away, what should I do?