

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 8 – Sin Comes to Eden Part 5

Introduction: In Genesis 3:6-7 we saw in the last lesson that the original sin was a lust to be God. In this lesson we will focus on Adam's part in this and the consequences of his sin.

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

⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. (Gen. 3:6-7 NKJ)

Re-read Genesis 2:15-17. To whom did God give this instruction?

Who was responsible for telling Eve about this?

Whose duty was it to protect his God-given helper?

Explain Adam's failure as the spiritual leader of his marriage?

Give one example of how you have followed in Adam's footsteps.

Read Romans 5. Who is the first Adam? What did he do?

Who is the second Adam? What did he do?



Re-read Romans 5:1-5. Do you have peace with God through Christ? If not, would you pray and confess your sins to God and ask Him to give you that peace?

How does God demonstrate His love for us (Romans 5:8)?

Think of someone in your pod or family that you need to show that kind of love. Pray that God will help you love as He loved you.

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Re-read Genesis 2:15-17. To whom did God give this instruction?

God gave this instruction to Adam. Eve was not yet created.

Who was responsible for telling Eve about this?

Adam was responsible to tell Eve what God has commanded and also to communicate the reward for obedience. The command from God was

“15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."
(Gen 2:15-17 ESV)

Notice that the penalty for disobedience was death. Therefore, the reward for obedience was life. In other words, the promise of eternal life with God was given before the fall and the entrance of sin into the world. The garden was never the goal of humanity. The goal of humanity was always, from the beginning, eternal life with God. Adam was responsible for communicating that to his wife.

Adam was a priest in the garden-temple. The garden was a temple because that is where the presence of God was found locally. And he was a priest because the same verbs in verse 15 (work and keep or guard) were given to the priests in the temple. Adam, as the priest in the temple was to communicate God's word to the people and keep the sanctuary of God pure and undefiled from sin. It was his responsibility to protect his wife and the temple.

Whose duty was it to protect his God-given helper?

It is Adam's duty to protect his God-given helper. He was to lead and teach.

Explain Adam's failure as the spiritual leader of his marriage?

As the Priest in the garden, and as her husband, it was his responsibility to protect his wife. This is why God called Adam to give account for what happened before he spoke to Eve (Gen 3:9). Yes, it was Eve who ate first, but it was Adam who failed first. Eve cannot be the one to bare the primary blame considering that it was Adam who was right there with her as she sinned (Gen 3:6 notice it says she also gave to her husband who was with her). As soon as Satan opened his mouth, Adam should have said, "Hold that thought Satan... Angel, come over here and destroy that serpent. It has spoken blasphemy against the Lord, our God." But he did not. He entertained Satan just like his wife and so they fell, and he holds the primary blame as the head of humanity and our representative in the garden.

Give one example of how you have followed in Adam's footsteps.

Listen here to them. Let the Spirit search them and work. Do not be afraid of silence. Listen and help them explore how we have failed to obey the commands of God and how we have led others into that sin just like Adam. As we listen, we will hear their heart and learn more how to bring the gospel to them personally.

Read Romans 5. Who is the first Adam? What did he do?

The first Adam (not the first Eve) sinned and brought death and sin to every man and woman since. Adam holds the primary responsibility for the sin in the garden and as the head of humanity, all humanity born is born under the headship of Adam. He is our representative and because he is, we share in the imputed guilt of Adam's sin, and have the inherited corruption of original sin. Remember, original sin is not the eating of the fruit. Original sin is the inherited corruption of sin we have from Adam. See Westminster Shorter Catechism Question/Answer 18

Q18: Wherein consists the sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell?

A18: The sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell, consists in the guilt of Adam's first sin, the want of original righteousness, and the corruption of his whole nature, which is commonly called Original Sin; together with all actual transgressions which proceed from it.

Who is the second Adam? What did he do?

Christ is the Second Adam. Jesus Christ obeyed God perfectly and therefore has the positive righteousness that we all need to be justified before our holy God and live

eternally with God forever. When we repent and place our trust in Christ, Jesus takes our sin and bears the penalty of sin for us which is death (see Gen 2:17 where the penalty for disobedience is death). We are then moved from Adam as our head to Christ as our head. Under the headship of Adam is sin and death. Under the headship of Christ is righteousness and life. Christ made it possible to overcome the sin and death that the first Adam brought upon all mankind. And all who repent and place their trust in Christ will find him the perfect savior they need.

Re-read Romans 5:1-5. Do you have peace with God through Christ? If not, would you pray and confess your sins to God and ask Him to give you that peace?

^{NKJ} Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. (Rom. 5:1-5 NKJ)

This is a good passage to go through phrase by phrase. Ask questions and discuss with the men.

Here are some questions:

What is justification? See Westminster Shorter Catechism Question/Answer 33:

Q33: What is justification?

A33: Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardoneth all our sins,¹ and accepteth us as righteous in his sight,² only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us,³ and received by faith alone.⁴

What does justification bring? Peace with God

How does that peace come to us? "through our Lord Jesus Christ."

What else does Christ bring to us? "access by faith into this grace" and joy "in hope of the glory of God."

How does this differ from my lust to be God? I am more interested in God's glory than my glory. All of life is a battle for glory – either my glory or God's glory.

How can one rejoice in tribulations (troubles)? It leads to hope.

How does one get hope?

How does God demonstrate His love for us (Romans 5:8)?

He sent Christ to die for sinners like you and me. Especially notice that He died for us when we were still sinners. We do not have to clean ourselves up to a particular level before Jesus can visit us with His grace. He comes to us as we are, sinners, when we were still sinners, and knowing the sins we will do in the future, He died for sinners like us. We can never be so great a sinner that Jesus and His mercy cannot redeem and save.

Think of someone in your pod or family that you need to show that kind of love. Pray that God will help you love as He loved you.