

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 9 – Sin Comes to Eden Part 6

Introduction: In Genesis 3:6-7 we saw that the original sin was a lust to be God. In this lesson we will look at 3:7 to see the results of sin in terms of human sexuality.

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

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.

Re-read Genesis 2:25. What is mentioned as significant about their state of innocence?

In 3:7 what is the effect of their disobedience? What do they see? What must they do?

Read Romans 1:16-32. Make a list of the sexual sins that Paul mentions.

Read Romans 1:24, 26, and 28. Who gives men up to these sexual sins?

Re-read Romans 1:18- 23. Why does God give men up to sexual sins?

How does Genesis 3 and particularly 3:7 parallel Romans 1:18-32?

Sexual sins are sins that every human since the fall has to deal with both in actions and in thoughts. Pray that God will help you grow in this area of your life. Re-read Isaiah 57:15. When we are honest before God about our sexual temptations, God will draw near to us to help us.

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Re-read Genesis 2:25. What is mentioned as significant about their state of innocence?

Genesis 2:25 says, “25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. (ESV)” When men and women were created, they were created good. There was no fall, no sin, no relational damage between them. They were able to be completely exposed before each other as there was no guilt, no shame, no sin, nothing that interrupted their fellowship and intimacy. They could love each other and love their God purely.

In 3:7 what is the effect of their disobedience? What do they see? What must they do?

Genesis 3:7 comes after the fall of man and woman into sin after the temptation of Satan. Their first response was in Gen 3:7, “7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. (ESV)” The two effects of their disobedience were the entrance of guilt and shame. Where before they were naked and unashamed, now shame has come, and they see the shame of one another and of themselves. Now, that shame causes a relational break. Sin first affected their relationship with each other. So, they, in their own strength and by their own works, attempt to cover their guilt and shame by making for themselves loincloths. They try to cover their guilt and shame with their own works.

Read Romans 1:16-32. Make a list of the sexual sins that Paul mentions.

Paul mentions the lusts of the impurities of their hearts for the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves in v. 24.

Paul also mentions homosexuality in verses 26-28; both in its male and female form.

Read Romans 1:24, 26, and 28. Who gives men up to these sexual sins?

It says God gives people over to those sins.

Re-read Romans 1:18- 23. Why does God give men up to sexual sins?

God gives men over to their sexual sins because of their idolatry in worshiping and serving the creation and not the creator, God gave them over to the lusts of their hearts, to dishonorable passions, and to a debased mind. God did not create this in them; their worship of idols and exchanging the glory of God for the glory of the creation caused that. God simply gives them what they want and removes his hand of protection. God does them no wrong; he simply gives them what their heart craves. They do not want God, so God does not force himself upon them. He has done them no wrong.

Consider the children of Israel in Numbers 11. They did not trust the lord to provide for them and chose meat over the faithfulness of God. God was feeding and caring for them, but that was not enough for them. So, God declared to them, "18 And say to the people, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat, for you have wept in the hearing of the LORD, saying, "Who will give us meat to eat? For it was better for us in Egypt." Therefore, the LORD will give you meat, and you shall eat. 19 You shall not eat just one day, or two days, or five days, or ten days, or twenty days, 20 but a whole month, until it comes out at your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you, because you have rejected the LORD who is among you and have wept before him, saying, "Why did we come out of Egypt?"' (Num 11:18-20 ESV) God said that he will give them the lusts of the heart so much that it will come out of their nostrils, and they despise it. He simply gave them what they desired; he did not cause the desire.

How does Genesis 3 and particularly 3:7 parallel Romans 1:18-32?

Mankind as made in God's image is inherently religious. Adam and Eve took this religion into their own hands and sought to cover themselves. They suppress their knowledge of God thinking themselves to be wise, knowing good and evil. They become fools. The shame and guilt they felt were God's giving them over to their own desires. Romans 1:18-32 describes this same process as it plays out in today's world.

Sexual sins are sins that every human since the fall has to deal with both in actions and in thoughts. Pray that God will help you grow in this area of your life. Re-read Isaiah 57:15. When we are honest before God about our sexual temptations, God will draw near to us to help us.