

Lessons in Life -- Lesson 10 – God Comes to Eden Part 1

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

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Introduction: Re-read Genesis 3:1-7. In Genesis 3:6-7 we saw that the original sin was a lust to be God. In this lesson we will look at 3:8 seeing Adam and Eve’s response to hearing God’s coming.

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

8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. (Gen. 3:8 NKJ)

In Genesis 3:7 they “see.” In 3:8 they only “hear.” Read Exodus 33:18-20. Moses asks to see God. What does God tell him?

Read Exodus 19:16-20 and 20:18-19 When God appeared to Moses and the people of Israel at Mount Sinai, what did they hear? What was their response?

Based on Exodus 19 and 20 when Adam and Eve hear God coming in the garden what do you think they heard?

What do Adam and Eve do when they hear God’s coming?

How was Adam and Eve’s response similar to the people at Sinai?

Does the God who spoke all reality into existence have to come to the Garden? What could God have done in response to their sinful disobedience? What does His coming tell us about Him?

What does the fact that Adam and Eve hear God but do not see Him tell us about God?

How has God been merciful to you? How have you responded to His mercy? Spend time in prayer thanking God for His mercy to you and confessing your lack of thankfulness for His mercy. Turn to Psalm 136 and pray this psalm to God.

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Exodus 33:18-20 says, "18 Moses said, "Please show me your glory." 19 And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. 20 But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." (ESV). God tells him that no one can see the face of God and live. God is perfectly holy and pure. To be in his presence is to know that we are sinners.

Consider Isaiah when God appeared to him. He cried out, "5 And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" (Isa 6:5 ESV). He calls down a curse upon himself as he realized that he is a man of unclean lips (lips and speech speaks of the heart c.f. Mark 7:13ff) and he dwells among a people with unclean lips. He says, not only am I sinful, but so is everyone around me. If we stand before God as sinners without a mediator, then all we have is the all-consuming fire of God's holiness in which no sinner can stand on his own.

Read Exodus 19:16-20 and 20:18-19 When God appeared to Moses and the people of Israel at Mount Sinai, what did they hear? What was their response?

16 On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. 17 Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. 18 Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the LORD had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. 19 And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder. (Exo 19:16-19 ESV)

Exodus 19:16-20 tells us that they saw thunder and lighting, thick clouds, and loud trumpet blasts. The mountain smoked like a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled. The noises got louder and louder and God eventually answered in thunder. And the people were terrified. The whole camp trembled before the Lord.

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18 Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off

19 and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die." (Exo 20:18-19 ESV)

Exodus 20-18-19 says that as God gave the law, they saw lightning and thunder, heard the sound of a trumpet, and the mountain smoking. And the people were afraid and stood far away, and they begged Moses to speak to God because they were afraid that if God spoke to them, they would die.

Based on Exodus 19 and 20 when Adam and Eve hear God coming in the garden what do you think they heard?

They heard the sound of the Lord coming in judgment. Often, if you look down at the footnote of your bible, there will be a note that the verse could say, they heard the sound of the Lord God in the "Spirit" of the day. The Hebrew word could mean "spirit" and "wind." This is not God taking a leisurely stroll in his garden, this is God the Almighty creator king showing up in judgment.

What do Adam and Eve do when they hear God's coming?

When they hear God, they run and try to hide from him

How was Adam and Eve's response similar to the people at Sinai?

The people at Sinai stood afar off and did not want God to speak to them either. They realized that they are dealing with the Holy God of the universe. And they could not stand in his presence as sinners without a mediator; someone to stand for them; so, they asked Moses to do so.

Adam and Eve had no mediator, so they simply ran and hid from the Lord, not wanting to hear what he had to say because they knew it would be the sound of judgment. God said that on that day they ate from the tree they would die. They thought that God would kill them right on the spot!

Does the God who spoke all reality into existence have to come to the Garden? What could God have done in response to their sinful disobedience? What does His coming tell us about Him?

No, God did not have to go anywhere. His presence is in all places at all times. Psalm 139:7-12 tells us, "7 Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? 8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! 9 If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," 12 even the darkness is not

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dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you. (Psa 139:7-12 ESV)

It tells us that God is merciful. He could have just killed mankind and started again or closed the chapter in judgment. But he didn't. He came and spoke to men. He condescended to fallen humanity and brought the law, but also the gospel of Grace (Gen 3:15). One day the seed of woman would crush the serpent's head. And that serpent would bruise the heel of the one who crushed him. When a serpent bites you, you die. So, the destruction of sin, death, and the devil would cost the life of the one who did the crushing. That is the gospel so clearly stated.

What does the fact that Adam and Eve hear God but do not see Him tell us about God?

It means that we as sinners cannot see God, but only hear his words of judgment. To stand in his presence as sinners means our death. But the good news is that Christ has lived the life we could not live, in perfect holiness in thought, word, and deed. He died the death our sins deserve, and rose again from the grave conquering sin, death, and the devil for us. And by faith in his works alone, our sins are imputed, or credited, to him, and his perfect life is imputed to us. We now have the mediator, perfect and holy, that we need to stand in the presence and behold God. Hebrews 12:14 tells us, "Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord." Christ's holiness is the holiness we need to see God. And that is ours by faith alone.

How has God been merciful to you? How have you responded to His mercy? Spend time in prayer thanking God for His mercy to you and confessing your lack of thankfulness for His mercy. Turn to Psalm 136 and pray this psalm to God.

Psalm 136:1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.
2 Give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever.
3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever;
4 to him who alone does great wonders, for his steadfast love endures forever;
5 to him who by understanding made the heavens, for his steadfast love endures forever;
6 to him who spread out the earth above the waters, for his steadfast love endures forever;
7 to him who made the great lights, for his steadfast love endures forever;
8 the sun to rule over the day, for his steadfast love endures forever;
9 the moon and stars to rule over the night, for his steadfast love endures forever;
10 to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, for his steadfast love endures forever;
11 and brought Israel out from among them, for his steadfast love endures forever;
12 with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, for his steadfast love endures forever;
13 to him who divided the Red Sea in two, for his steadfast love endures forever;
14 and made Israel pass through the midst of it, for his steadfast love endures forever;
15 but overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea, for his steadfast love endures forever;
16 to him who led his people through the wilderness, for his steadfast love endures forever;
17 to him who struck down great kings, for his steadfast love endures forever;
18 and killed mighty kings, for his steadfast love endures forever;
19 Sihon, king of the Amorites, for his steadfast love endures forever;

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- 20 and Og, king of Bashan, for his steadfast love endures forever;
21 and gave their land as a heritage, for his steadfast love endures forever;
22 a heritage to Israel his servant, for his steadfast love endures forever.
23 It is he who remembered us in our low estate, for his steadfast love endures forever;
24 and rescued us from our foes, for his steadfast love endures forever;
25 he who gives food to all flesh, for his steadfast love endures forever.
26 Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever. (Psa 136:1-26 ESV)