

## Lessons in Life -- Lesson 11 – God Comes to Eden Part 2

### 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 3:1-8. In Genesis 3:6-7 we saw that the original sin was a lust to be God. In 3:8 we saw that Adam and Eve hid themselves from God. In this lesson we will look at 3:9-10 where God enters into a conversation with Adam.

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

<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where *are* you?"

<sup>10</sup> So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." (Gen. 3:9-10 NKJ)

Re-read Genesis 1:26-2:3. God made Adam in His image that Adam might enjoy fellowship with God on the Sabbath day. None of the animals have the ability to communicate with God like Adam does. Fellowship with God on the Sabbath is the high point and the goal of creation.

When God comes to Eden He asks Adam a question in 3:9. What is the question? Does not God already know the answer to the question? If so, why does He ask it?

What does God's question "Where are you?" tell us about fellowship?

In 3:10 Adam answers God. His answer has two parts. He heard God and then He was afraid. Did Adam have any reason to be afraid before now? Why was Adam afraid?

What does Adam do because of his nakedness?

What does our lack of shame tell us about our view of God? Our fear of God?

Read Proverbs 1:7. Why should we fear God?

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When God comes to Eden, He asks Adam a question in 3:9. What is the question? Does not God already know the answer to the question? If so, why does He ask it?

God asked Adam, "Where are you." God of course knows where Adam is hiding. This is not a question of seeking information. As we discussed in the last lesson, God has shown up in judgment. God is calling Adam to present himself before God for judgment. It is rather like hearing the lamp break in the living room and footsteps scatter. You know where the kids are hiding; you know they broke the lamp. So you call out, "Kids, where are you." You do that so they would present themselves, not because you are seeking information. God is calling his priest-king to judgment for violating his holy laws.

What does God's question "Where are you?" tell us about fellowship?

God does not deal with us as simply groups, church, nation, culture, etc. God is intensely personal with each and every one of us. He desires fellowship; personal, intimate, and reciprocal fellowship. It also means that his judgment for us is personal. He will speak to us about our sin and need for his grace. He will speak to us personally of his holiness and love. He will speak to us personally about his work for and in us. So here, God comes personally to Adam to speak with him of his sin.

In 3:10 Adam answers God. His answer has two parts. He heard God and then He was afraid. Did Adam have any reason to be afraid before now? Why was Adam afraid?

Adam had no reason to be afraid before this point because there was no sin. Adam had nothing that prevented him from hearing, fellowshiping with, walking with, worshipping, and loving God and neighbor.

But when Sin came Adam felt for the first time two feelings, guilt, and shame. Guilt is the appropriate feeling when we sin against someone else. It is realizing our fault, knowing it is wrong, and knowing it has damaged our relationship with the one offended. Shame is the feeling we have from our sin knowing that others see us and our guilt.

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Adam's guilt made him run and hide from God in fear. Adam's shame made him try to cover his nakedness with his own works. Both guilt and shame magnify our fear from God and others.

What does Adam do because of his nakedness?

Adam took fig leaves and tried to make himself clothes to hide his guilt and shame. But man-made works cannot remove the guilt and shame of our sin. It only magnifies both.

What does our lack of shame tell us about our view of God? Our fear of God?

This is a point of personal reflection. Listen and hear where is their guilt and shame. If we listen long enough, we will hear their heart and with discernment can bring the gospel of Jesus to where it can be received.

Read Proverbs 1:7. Why should we fear God?

Proverbs 1:7 says,  
"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;  
fools despise wisdom and instruction (ESV)."

"<sup>20</sup> But He said, 'You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.'" (Exod. 33:20 NKJ)

"<sup>11</sup> Who knows the power of Your anger?  
For as the fear of You, *so is* Your wrath.

<sup>12</sup> So teach *us* to number our days,  
That we may gain a heart of wisdom."  
(Ps. 90:11-12 NKJ)

"<sup>31</sup> It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Heb. 10:31 NKJ)

"<sup>18</sup> For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, <sup>19</sup> and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard *it* begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. <sup>20</sup> (For they could not endure what was commanded: "And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow." <sup>21</sup> And so terrifying was the sight *that* Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.")

<sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, <sup>23</sup> to the general assembly and church of the firstborn *who are* registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, <sup>24</sup> to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than *that of* Abel." (Heb. 12:18-24 NKJ)

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Fear means fear in the fullest sense of the word. The question for each of us is how do we respond to this fear. When faced with a true fear, what do we do? We have three choices. On the one hand, we can rebel and suppress that knowledge so we pretend that God's wrath is not real. Secondly, we can shut down so that we cannot go or do anything for fear. Fear turns us into hermits afraid to go to the grocery store. Third, we can surrender and obey. The fool either rebels and suppresses thinking that he can escape God, or he shuts down completely terrified by his fears. The wise man surrenders and obeys.

In seeking to obey the first thing the wise realizes is that he is incapable in himself of obeying in such a way as to fully please God. He needs a mediator. He needs Jesus, the mediator between God and man. The wise person who comes to God through his mediator begins to grow in his obedience. As he obeys he begins to better understand God. Yes, He is to be feared, but He is also good. Obedience to this God, brings great comfort knowing that God is kind, compassionate, and full of mercy to those who surrender and obey. The fear that once caused him to flee and hide, now brings great comfort in knowing his God is fully able to protect him from all his enemies.

The process of surrender and obedience produces a great and continuing desire to grow and change. This process also produces compassion for those who suppress this knowledge of God. Evangelism takes place because the wise man knows that it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.