

Lessons in Life -- Lesson 13 – God Comes to Eden Part 4

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 3:1-10. In this lesson we continue our study of Genesis 3:11. Before doing this lesson you should review Lessons 11 and 12.

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

¹¹ And He said, "Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"
(Gen. 3:9-11 NKJ)

In the last lesson we saw from Romans 2:14 that God has written His law on the heart of every man and speaks to us about that law through our conscience.

What is God's second question to Adam in Genesis 3:11?

When God gives us a command, is He merely suggesting something we should consider? What exactly is a command from God?

How had this command come to Adam? Was it written on his heart or was it communicated directly to him by God?

How does Adam's behavior demonstrate that he has disobeyed God's command?

Can you give an example of how your behavior shows that you have broken one of God's laws? (You do not need to write this answer here. This is something to talk to God about in prayer.)

When you stand before God, the Judge of the Living and the dead, what evidence could God use to convict you of sin?

Read Galatians 2:16. How is a man justified (declared righteous before God)?

Is a man justified by faith alone or does he need to do something else to complete his justification?

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What is God's second question to Adam in Genesis 3:11?

God said, "Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

When God gives us a command, is He merely suggesting something we should consider? What exactly is a command from God?

God does not give suggestions. God is the creator of all things, and therefore, the king of all creation. He is the sovereign one who rules over all things, things in heaven, and on the earth. A command then is his decree to us which we are to follow. His command could come in something we are to do, or something not to do. So, we can violate God's commands by either not doing what he said to do, or by doing what he said we should not. When we do something, he has commanded we should not, this is called a sin of commission (we committed it, did it). When we fail to do something that he told us to do, this is called a sin of omission (we omitted or left out something).

How had this command come to Adam? Was it written on his heart or was communicated directly to him by God?

The command came to Adam in Genesis 2:16-17, "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." (ESV) This command came right from the very mouth of God to Adam, so this particular command was not written on his heart. What was written on his heart was that he was to love the Lord his God with all his heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love his neighbor as himself. So although the command God gave him was not directly written, the fact that he was to obey, love, and serve his God and to love his neighbor as himself surely was.

How does Adam's behavior demonstrate that he has disobeyed God's command?

Adam's behavior demonstrated that he had disobeyed God's command in that first, when he sinned, he realized he was naked. Shame came and he no longer loved his neighbor as

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himself. He took fig leaves and tried to cover his shame with his own works instead of coming to God and admitting his sin, repenting, and trusting in God's works to cover him. And then his guilt had him running away from God and not running towards God. The perfect fellowship he had with God and neighbor has been shattered by sin.

Can you give an example of how your behavior shows that you have broken one of God's laws? (You do not need to write this answer here. This is something to talk to God about in prayer.)

When you stand before God, the Judge of the Living and the dead, what evidence could God use to convict you of sin?

Let them talk and listen. Let them share their heart and listen for how to apply the work of the gospel to their heart when you can.

Read Galatians 2:16. How is a man justified (declared righteous before God)?

Galatians 2:16 says, "16 yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. (ESV) This verse clearly tells us that we are not justified by works of the law, but through faith in Jesus. Notice how the verse says that, and then says it again. "We know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ (16a), so we also have believed in Christ Jesus in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified (16b)."

This verse preaches forward and backward that we are not saved by our works. Our works are tainted with sin and are nowhere near perfect. Even our best works are filthy rags (menstrual cloths) compared to the spotless work of God (Isaiah 64:6 "6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. (ESV)" Notice it says that all our righteous works are that way, let alone our unrighteous works. And even if we could live perfectly in thought, word, and deed, from this moment forward, there are no works that we can do to take away the works of unrighteousness we have done in our past. Our judge is perfect and cannot be bribed, and our sin cannot be brushed away by our works.

We need someone to work outside of us and for us. Jesus lived perfectly under the law. He perfectly obeyed everything God commanded both in what he said to do and what he said to not do. He had no sins of omission or commission; his work is the work we need. And by faith in him, he takes our sinful works and takes them to the cross, where he pays the debt of them which is death. He then gives us his perfect life as ours. So, we have full forgiveness of sins where our polluted works are removed, and we have now the perfect works of righteousness that we need to stand justified before the Father. That is the gospel of Jesus which we receive by faith alone!

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Is a man justified by faith alone or does he need to do something else to complete his justification?

We need nothing else to complete our justification. We simply need Jesus. We are justified by faith alone. Our works come after justification to show our gratitude and love to Jesus for the great salvation he has given us. Our works do not earn us anything because we have already been given everything by coming to Jesus by faith!

Before we came to Christ we dulled our conscience to sin, but when we come to Christ, God makes our conscience alive. To grow in Christ, we must allow God to make our conscience more sensitive to sin. At first this might seem like a bad thing because it brings guilt, but as we grow, we realize it's a good thing because we see more and more the wonderful salvation that we have in Christ. We find hope by looking outside ourselves to Christ.