

## Lessons in Life -- Lesson 21 –Application

### 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:** In these last few lessons, we will look at how to apply what we have learned from studying Genesis 1-3. In this lesson we will look at how the original sin, the lust to be God, works itself out in our lives through our strategies to be God.

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

<sup>5</sup> "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

<sup>6</sup> 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. (Gen. 3:5-6 NKJ)

<sup>13</sup> "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, *And* hewn themselves cisterns-- broken cisterns that can hold no water. (Jer. 2:13 NKJ)

What does Satan promise Eve (3:5)? How did Eve respond (3:6)?

We describe this as "the lust to be God." Where do you find "lust" in these verses?

The lust to be God is the root sin in every person in every sin. Can you give an example of a sin common in our culture that is driven by "the lust to be God"?

Look carefully at Jeremiah 2:13. Jeremiah lived about 600 B.C. or about 3500 years after Genesis 3. Jeremiah tells us what God thinks of His people in Jeremiah's day. What parallels do you see between Genesis 3 and Jeremiah 2:13.

A cistern was a container carved into rock designed to catch rain water. Channels were also carved into the rock to direct the rain water into the cistern where it would be stored until needed. The climate was very dry raining very little so it was important to catch every drop of rain. A broken cistern is a cistern with a crack in it so that the water channeled into it immediately leaked out through the crack.

God uses the picture of a broken cistern to describe the people's idolatry. What is an idol? What does this tell us about any idol? What do idols promise? What do idols deliver?

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John Calvin described our hearts as “idol factories.” How does our “lust to be God” relate to our idols?

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What does Satan promise Eve (3:5)? How did Eve respond (3:6)?

Satan promises Eve that she can be like God. Eve responded by seeing that the fruit was good for food, she saw that it was pleasant to her eyes, and she had desire to be wise. So she took and ate.

We describe this as “the lust to be God.” Where do you find “lust” in these verses?

Lust is found in her desire. Notice, she saw it was good for food, she saw it was pleasant, and she had a desire to be wise. Notice how similar these are to 1 John 2:16, “16 For all that is in the world-- the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life-- is not from the Father but is from the world.” She saw it was good for food (desire of the flesh), good for the eyes (desire of the eyes), and wanted to be wise (pride of life). Those are the areas that our lusts to be God manifest. Lust to our flesh, for what our flesh craves, lust to our eyes, for what our eyes crave, and lust to make our lives better and more comfortable.

The lust to be God is the root sin in every person in every sin. Can you give an example of a sin common in our culture that is driven by “the lust to be God”?

Listen here to what they see in the world or in their own lives. It can be chosen from just about anywhere in our culture or life.

Look carefully at Jeremiah 2:13. Jeremiah lived about 600 B.C. or about 3500 years after Genesis 3. Jeremiah tells us what God thinks of His people in Jeremiah’s day. What parallels do you see between Genesis 3 and Jeremiah 2:13.

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First, they, as in Jeremiah's time forsook the Lord. They did not listen to the Lord's words, love His presence, or follow His commands. God gave all the garden and the world to them in His goodness, because He truly is the fountain of living water to us all. But instead, they chose death over life.

Second, like those in Jeremiah's time, they tried to satisfy their thirst in their own power. Instead of trusting in the lord and his promise, Adam and Eve listened to the short cut promised by the Serpent. In Jeremiah's day, they would carve out cisterns to hold water. But just like Adam and Eve's attempt at becoming god, it holds no water and ends in death.

A cistern was a container carved into rock designed to catch rain water. Channels were also carved into the rock to direct the rain water into the cistern where it would stored until needed. The climate was very dry, raining very little, so it was important to catch every drop of rain. A broken cistern is a cistern with a crack in it so that the water channeled into it immediately leaked out through the crack.

God uses the picture of a broken cistern to describe the people's idolatry. What is an idol? What does this tell us about any idol? What do idols promise? What do idols deliver?

And idol is anything in our heart that we exalt over God. But when good desires become ultimate desires, they become idols that control and imprison us. A desire for peace is a good thing, but when we use alcohol or drugs to get that peace, the alcohol or drug becomes an idol. We only find peace when we seek God and worship and serve Him.

Any idol we follow forsakes the Lord, as we chose it over Him. Idols also promise life just like cisterns do. But like in Jeremiah's time, those cisterns we carve are broken and cannot give life. Idols promise the world to us, but do not deliver on their promises; they only bring us death.

John Calvin described our hearts as "idol factories." How does our "lust to be God" relate to our idols?

The point of Calvin's description is that our heart continually makes idols, just like a assembly line. When we destroy one idol in our heart, so often another one comes right up after it. We are always at war with the idols in our heart.

Idolatry says that we can be like God and make our world. We control it, we set its morality, we set its values, we are the one who controls it all. We want and will satisfy the desires our flesh craves, we will set our eyes upon what we want to set them upon, and we will have the life and comforts of this life that we feel we should have. We will be master over us and no one else.