

THE HUMAN CONDITION

Bible Text: Genesis 3–4

Lesson Focus: We rebel against God when we sin, but God consistently comes to us with mercy and forgiveness.

Big Question: Am I a bad person when I make poor choices or break a rule (even if I think it's not a good rule)?

Key Words: SIN, JUDGMENT, SEPARATION, MERCY

BIBLE CONNECTION

-] The man and the woman are given names: Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:20; 4:25).
-] Though not mentioned by name, sin enters into creation in Genesis 3 and 4.
-] Sin is anything that causes a breakdown in a relationship.
-] Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:17; 3:6).
-] God kicks Adam and Eve out of the garden, but God does not abandon them (Genesis 3:23).
-] The story of Cain and Abel shows that even family members can be violent and hurtful to one another (Genesis 4:1-16).
-] God lets us make choices, but those choices have consequences.
-] We are all sinful beings, and nothing can change that.
-] We have a God who loves us and forgives us despite our sinful condition.

CARTOON CONNECTION

-] Why are Adam and Eve worried about what they're wearing?
-] What choices are you making? What are potential consequences of those choices?
-] What changed when Adam and Eve failed to respect the limits God gave them?



STUDENT BOOK CONNECTION

Here We Stand Student Book page 228: How to Be Saved (By Grace Through Faith and Not by Your Good Works)

-] Why is it sometimes easier to recognize others' gifts more clearly than your own?
-] Why is it so hard to accept the fact that we have to do nothing to receive God's mercy and grace?

Here We Stand Student Book page 280: How to Tell the Difference between Original Sin and Everyday Sin

-] How do we see original sin in today's story?
-] What does that say about who we are as human beings?

LIFE CONNECTION

Sometimes rules make sense. Sometimes they don't. You may wonder whether breaking a rule is automatically a sin. Between now and the next class, make a list of rules that you question. Take some time to think about what's behind those not-so-good rules and share your findings with the group.

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True/False Quiz

Answer the following questions with “True” or “False.”

1. There are great people in this world who do not sin. **T or F**
2. Humans are always trying to be like God, and that’s not always a good thing. **T or F**
3. God wasn’t a big fan of the serpent (Genesis 3:14-15). **T or F**
4. Sin is the fault of women, since Eve made Adam eat the apple. **T or F**
5. God punished the woman by making childbearing painful (Genesis 3:16). **T or F**
6. Cain killed his brother Abel. **T or F**
7. Cain was jealous that Abel’s offering was more pleasing to God. **T or F**
8. God punished Cain by having him killed (Genesis 4:15). **T or F**

Answers: 1. False, we’re all sinners. 2. True 3. True 4. False, sin is part of being a human. Adam and Eve made a mutual decision to eat the forbidden fruit. 5. True 6. True 7. True 8. False