

Questions / Answers

1. How did God show His love for Adam and Eve?
God gave them the Garden of Eden, plenty of food, good work
2. Why did God test Adam and Eve?
To see if they loved Him and would obey Him
3. What was the test?
Must not eat the fruit of the Tree of knowledge of good and evil
4. How did Adam and Eve respond to the test?
Eve listened to the serpent and ate the fruit, Adam also ate it
5. Why should we **not** blame someone else for our sin?
We are all responsible for our own sins
6. What was the most important punishment for sin?
Death. God takes back the breath of life and the body becomes dust
7. How does that punishment affect **us**?
Everyone sins, therefore everyone dies
8. What were the other punishments?
Serpent to crawl, Eve pain in childbirth and obey husband, Adam to work hard for food
9. Did God leave Adam and Eve without hope?
No. God made a promise of life which gave them hope
10. What was the promise that God made to Adam and Eve?
Through Jesus our sin can be forgiven and we can have life
11. Why was Cain angry with God and with Abel?
God did not accept his sacrifice, but he did accept Abel's
12. Why should we master sin?
One sin leads to another, if we do not master sin it will master us

Memory verses Genesis 3:15, Genesis 3:19

Discussion What is the link between Genesis 3:15 and Romans 6:23?

Writing *What have you learned about sin?* Write about:

- ✓ the beginning of sin
- ✓ punishment for sin,
- ✓ salvation from sin and death
- ✓ mastering sin

CBM Senior Lessons

Lesson 3 The Garden of Eden

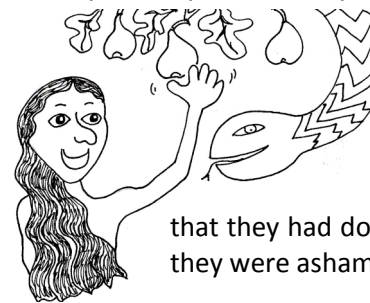


READING Genesis 3 and 4

LESSON

God loved Adam and Eve very much and He gave them everything to make them happy. God made a beautiful Garden for them to live in. There were many trees and plants that produced fruit which was good so Adam and Eve had plenty to eat. Adam's work was to look after the Garden of Eden. It was good work because plants grew well and there were no weeds.

God wanted to know whether Adam and Eve loved Him. God decided to test Adam and Eve to see if they would obey Him. It was not a hard test. There was a tree in the middle of the Garden called the Tree of knowledge of good and evil. God said they must not eat the fruit of this tree. If they ate the fruit they would disobey God—they would sin. It is very important to obey God's commands. It was so important that God told Adam that, if they disobeyed Him, they would die.



The serpent tempted Eve to disobey. It told her that she would not die if she ate the fruit from that tree.; she would become as clever as God. Eve ate the fruit. She gave the fruit to Adam and he also ate it. Then they both knew

that they had done wrong. They knew that they were naked and they were ashamed. They made clothes from fig leaves.

God came into the garden to talk to Adam and Eve. God asked Adam if he had eaten the fruit. Adam blamed Eve; he said that Eve made him eat the fruit. Eve blamed the serpent. It is easy to blame someone else when we do wrong, but we are responsible for our own sins. The serpent told Eve a lie, but it was Adam and Eve who decided to eat the fruit. They were each responsible for their own sin. God punished them all.

God punishes The most important punishment for Adam and Eve was death. They began to grow old and later they died. God had made Adam

from the dust of the ground. He had breathed into his nose the breath of life. Then Adam became a living person (Genesis 2:7). Adam and Eve had now sinned. God said that the punishment for sin (doing wrong) is death. God said that when Adam and Eve died, He would take away the breath of life. Then their bodies would turn back into the dust of the ground (Genesis 3:19).

Death is a punishment for every person who sins. We all sin against God in our lives. Therefore our punishment is death. When we die, God takes away the breath that keeps us alive. We are buried in the ground and our body goes back to dust. We cease to exist.

The other punishments were:

- The serpent had to crawl on the ground and eat dust
- Eve had to obey her husband; she would have pain in childbirth
- Adam had to work hard to grow food because weeds would grow

Promise of hope God loved Adam and Eve, although they had done wrong. God wanted them to have hope. God made a promise to Adam and Eve when He punished the serpent. God said, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head and you will strike his heel."

This promise is important because it is the first promise that God made to men. It is a bit difficult to understand, so we will look at it in detail. The word 'enmity' means hatred. 'Offspring' means a descendant. Remember that God is speaking to the serpent. The words in brackets below explain who God is talking to. The words in italics explain the meaning.

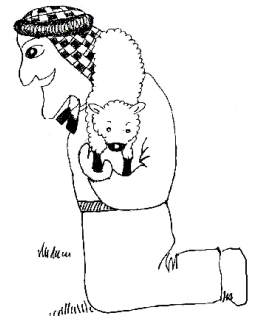
- I (God) will put enmity between you (serpent) and the woman. *The serpent tempted the woman to sin and therefore it represents sin. People will struggle to overcome sin*
- And between your (serpent's) offspring and hers (the woman's offspring) *The woman's offspring was Jesus. God was his Father, Jesus did not have a human father, therefore he was the son of the woman, of Mary. The serpent represented sin. This means that Jesus struggled to overcome sin*
- He (Jesus) will crush your (serpent's) head: *To crush the head is to kill. The serpent represents sin. This means that Jesus destroyed sin. Jesus never sinned and he has provided the way for sin to be destroyed for ever.*
- And you (serpent) will strike his (Jesus') heel: *To strike someone's heel is very painful and gives a temporary wound. This means that sin would hurt Jesus. Jesus died a painful death on the cross, but Jesus did not stay dead in the grave. It was only temporary. After 3 days he became alive again.*

Read Romans 6:23. Everyone sins and therefore has to die. God gave a promise of hope to Adam and Eve, that one day sin and death would be destroyed. Man was given the hope of eternal life.

Blood is shed to cover sin God made clothes from animal skins to cover Adam and Eve. An animal had to be killed to make clothes to cover them. This was a lesson to show them that blood had to be shed in order for sins to be covered or forgiven. It looked forward to the time when Jesus would die and shed his blood to forgive the sins of all who believe. From that time men brought animal sacrifices to seek God's forgiveness. (Hebrews 9:22)

Adam and Eve had to leave the beautiful Garden of Eden and the tree of life. They had to live a hard life until they died.

Cain and Abel Eve gave birth to Cain and then to Abel. When Cain grew up he grew vegetables, but Abel looked after sheep. When they came to bring an offering to God, Cain brought some vegetables that he had grown. Abel brought one of his sheep.



God accepted Abel's offering because he sacrificed an animal in the way that God had shown. But God did not accept Cain's offering of vegetables. Cain had not listened to God and obeyed Him. Cain was very angry because God did not accept his offering.

Master sin God spoke to Cain and explained that he must obey God if he wanted God to accept him. God warned Cain that he must master, or overcome, sin (Genesis 4:7). Cain did not listen to God. He stayed very angry. He became bitter and jealous of his brother, Abel. Then Cain did wrong again. Cain met Abel in a field and he killed him. Now Cain had done two wrong things.

God spoke to Cain again and asked him, "Where is your brother?" Cain lied and said, "I do not know, am I my brother's keeper?" Now Cain had done three wrong things.

One sin followed another. God knew that sin had mastered Cain and so he sent him away. If Cain had listened to God and put the first problem right, he would not have done the other wrong things. We must master sin and not let one sin lead to another. If we continue to sin then sin will master us.