

03

GENESIS 3:1-13,21-24

PERFECTION DESTROYED



THIS WEEK'S **focus**

If you've ever seen the beginning of a horror movie, you know that a scene of a perfectly happy family in a perfect home is a set up. Movies have taught us to recognize that ominous feeling of, "Uh oh . . . something terrible is about to happen." The beginning of the world went something like that. At first, everything was perfect. Man and woman lived in perfect harmony with God, creation, one another, and even themselves. But that was all about to be destroyed through sin. Humanity's sin corrupted God's good creation—but God promised rescue.



CENTRAL **truth**

Humanity's sin corrupted God's good creation, but God promised rescue.



EXPLORE

scripture

GENESIS 3:1-13,21-24

GENESIS 3:1-6

1 Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You can’t eat from any tree in the garden?’” **2** The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. **3** But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, ‘You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.”” **4** “No! You

will certainly not die,” the serpent said to the woman. **5** “In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” **6** The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

GENESIS 3:7-13

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. **8** Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. **9** So the LORD God called out to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” **10** And he said, “I heard you in the garden,

and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.” **11** Then he asked, “Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?” **12** The man replied, “The woman you gave to be with me— she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate.” **13** So the LORD God asked the woman, “What have you done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

GENESIS 3:21-24

21 The LORD God made clothing from skins for the man and his wife, and he clothed them. **22** The Lord God said, “Since the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil, he must not reach out, take from the tree of life, eat, and live forever.” **23** So the LORD God sent

him away from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. **24** He drove the man out and stationed the cherubim and the flaming, whirling sword east of the garden of Eden to guard the way to the tree of life.

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE GENESIS 3:15

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

GENESIS 3:1-6

DWELL

The serpent is described as “crafty” or “cunning” right when he appears on the scene, and it’s not difficult to see why. He begins by inviting the woman to question God’s words. Perhaps she’d never even thought to do that before! Then the serpent invites her to question God’s goodness. She starts to wonder if God has been keeping her from good things by placing a boundary.

↓ What does this passage reveal about temptation and sin?

→ How have you noticed these temptations in your own life? How can you deal with them?

MEMORIZE

Using colored pencils or pens, creatively write out Genesis 3:15 on a piece of paper. Then, “take a picture” of it with your mind and try to say the verse to yourself a few times without looking.

PRAY

Ask God to grow you in wisdom so that you can spot temptation and cling to His Word instead.

day 2

GENESIS 3:7-13

DWELL

After man and woman sinned, their eyes were “opened” as the serpent promised, but this wasn’t a good thing. It made them want to hide. They covered up their bodies, and they hid from the Lord. It was quite a shift for them to hear Him coming and feel fear rather than excitement. But notice this: even though their sin was obvious, they couldn’t own up to it. They tried to cover themselves by pointing fingers at someone else.



Why does sin make us want to hide from God and others?



When we point to others and assign blame to them, what is likely at the root?

MEMORIZE

Write out Genesis 3:15 on a note card, and place it next to your bed. Make it a goal to read it five times before you go to bed and five times when you wake up.

PRAY

Ask God to give you the courage to fully confess your sins to Him and to others rather than seek to “cover” yourself by blaming someone else.

day 3

GENESIS 3:14-15

DWELL

The primary offender in Genesis 3 is the serpent, who was either Satan himself or an agent of Satan. God told Satan there would be strict consequences for his actions, and within these consequences He included a promise of redemption for humanity. One day, a human would conquer this enemy, though it would be a painful conquest. Genesis 3:15 is an important verse in the Bible because it invites readers to keep an eye out for this promised Rescuer.



How do you think this promise encouraged the original audience of Genesis?



What does it reveal about God that even at this dark moment, He was still promising rescue?

MEMORIZE

Invent motions that match the words of Genesis 3:15, and practice them while saying the words out loud a few times. It probably feels a little weird, but when something is weird, it helps us remember!

PRAY

Take some time to praise God for who He is! He didn’t stomp away from man and woman in a huff when they disobeyed. He treated sin like a big deal, but He still promised rescue.

day 4

GENESIS 3:16-19

DWELL

Sin is a big deal, and God wasn't going to shove it under the rug. In a way, these consequences were natural. Man and woman wanted life outside of God's design, so they would have it. Eve's consequences were connected with relationships, and Adam's consequences were connected with work. You probably notice these consequences at work in the lives of men and women today! But don't forget this: before these consequences, God made a promise of redemption.

↓ How does this passage help you understand the struggles that humans have today?

↶ How does this passage prompt you to pray for yourself and others?

MEMORIZE

Write down the first letter of each word of Genesis 3:15 on a note card. At least five times today, see if you can say the verse just by looking at these letters.

PRAY

Ask God to give you wisdom to recognize these consequences at work in the world today. Ask Him to increase your conviction that Christ is the world's hope for rescue.

day 5

GENESIS 3:20-24

DWELL

In verse 20, the woman finally has a name. Notice that Adam named her after the promise of redemption in Genesis 3:15. Perhaps this was an act of faith on Adam's part—his way of acknowledging that although the road ahead would be painful, their Rescuer would be born of a woman. Adam and Eve would need to cling to this promise as they headed out of their garden home. Yes, God sent them away, but first He covered them. Every day as they got dressed, they could remember God's goodness.

↑ What do God's actions here teach you about Him?

→ How does this passage motivate you to cling to God's promises?

MEMORIZE

Tell a friend or family member that your memory verse this week is Genesis 3:15, and explain what it means. Then, invite that person to randomly quiz you on the verse at some point today.

PRAY

Thank God for the way He covers those who are ashamed with His grace, love, and forgiveness. If you are feeling any shame, tell Him about it, and ask Him to cover you.