

THE FIRST SIN

GENESIS 3:1-7, 21-24

(Prepared by Gene Thompson using LifeWay's ETB materials.)

1. What evidence of the impact sin have you seen or heard about in the last couple of weeks?
2. If God exists and He is all-powerful and good, why does He let such terrible things happen? (Because God gave man freedom of choice, and He will not force His will against man's choice.)

Sin has always resulted from an individual's choice, not God's. Our choices will either draw us closer to God and the blessings that come through obedience, or they will distance us from Him and expose us to the consequences of death. Sin is rampant in our world. We are born into it, and we choose it constantly. Before we choose to say "yes" to temptation, we must say "no" to God.

God had demonstrated His trustworthiness and love by providing everything Adam and Eve needed for full and productive lives. Still, they chose to disobey God. As a result, they lost the blessings of Eden. Even worse, their intimate faith-relationship with God was broken; they became slaves to sin. Their disobedience exchanged God's blessings for judgment and a curse. "Sin changes things!"—And never for the good!

3. When have you found a stain that you just couldn't remove? How did you feel?

We will see today how God's good creation was marred by humanity's sin!

TEMPTED! Read Genesis 3:1-5

1. Does this passage tell us who the "serpent" was? (No, it does not specifically say. Had we not been given further information; we might assume it was just "a serpent." But we DO have further information, in places like: Rev. 12:9 and Rev. 20:2.)

Both scriptures specifically tell us this was not "just" a serpent, but the devil, Satan, using a serpent to tempt Eve.

2. What was Satan's question at the end of verse 1 designed to do? (Cause Eve to question God.) He disputed God's Word. The tactics the devil used to tempt Eve are the same tactics he uses today. The deception began with a subtle attack on God's word. He questioned God's integrity, goodness, and trustworthiness.

3. What was Eve's response to the serpent's question? (Eve didn't give the exact command God had given Adam. She left out the word "every" and the word "freely." Satan had caused her to focus on what was prohibited instead of what was freely provided.)

"Eve caught Satan's subtle suggestion that God was holding out on them. She also added to what God had said. When we let Satan get an inroad into our life, we make God's Word less gracious by leaving something out and more grievous by adding something in. Satan makes us think less of the grace of God and more of the law of God. He gets us thinking that maybe God doesn't really care about us. Maybe He isn't interested in our welfare at all. That's how deception gets into our lives."—David Jeremiah.

4. What does Satan do in verse 4? (He calls God liar.)
5. What caused Satan's downfall in the first place? (He wanted to be God. Now he tells Eve she can be like God if she just ate from the tree.)

Eve's uncertainty about God's words opened the door for Satan to blatantly contradict God's words. He called into question God's motives by distorting what God said and suggested that God was keeping Adam and Eve from wisdom, knowledge, or pleasure.

FALLEN! Read Genesis 3:6-7

John hit the nail on the head in **1 John 2:15-16!** “Lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of one’s lifestyle...” This is exactly what happened to Eve.

1. What is the appeal of something that promises to make a person wise? (This will be an easy way to the top. Prov. 9:10 says “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom...” Unfortunately, we want to do it our way not God’s way.)

Eve began to view the tree to obtain insight, power, and success apart from God. Her temptation follows the recipe we just read in 1 John 2:16.

Apparently, Adam was present when the conversation between the serpent and Eve took place.

Moreover, Paul stated that while the woman was deceived, Adam was not (1 Tim. 2:14). He willingly went along with Eve in eating the fruit.

2. What happened immediately when they ate the fruit? (Their eyes were opened, they realized they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together to cover their nakedness.)
3. What are some “lusts of the flesh, lusts of the eyes, and boastful pride of life? (Sexual immorality of all types; food and drink, etc.; Envy/coveting, etc.; desire for attention, to be in the spotlight, for it to be “all about us,” etc.)

The point is: the temptations that Eve faced in the Garden of Eden are the SAME temptations that we face today. So let us be aware of them (“not ignorant of his schemes”) and ask God to help us resist them.

God said don’t eat it, but they did. That is sin! James 4:17 says: “Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.” Doing what we know not to do—or not doing what we know to do, all of that is sin. It doesn’t matter what it is.

4. How is temptation different from sin? (Temptation only becomes sin when we act upon it, take the second look!)
5. What is the allure of temptation? (Sin is pleasurable for a season; there is no need to deny it! But when the “bill” comes due there is a heavy price to pay!)
6. In what ways do we sometimes try to deal with sin on our own terms? (Hide like Adam and Eve. Say “it was just a small thing.” Try to convince ourselves it’s not sin.)
7. How is life different before and after this day? (Loss of self-esteem; personal shame and alienation; fear; transference of guilt to another; pain in childbirth; exhaustion in labor; serpent crawl on its belly and eat dust.)

FIRST GOSPEL SERMON! Read Genesis 3:15

Adrian Rogers said this is the first gospel sermon ever preached. Almost all the Bible is wrapped up in this verse. And God says, “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel!

This is the only place in Scripture where the “seed of woman” is used. The term “seed of man” is used over one hundred times. The Messiah would be from the “seed of woman.”

GRACE FOUND! Read Genesis 3:21-24

After they had sinned, we see the consequences of their sin. **SIN ALWAYS HAS CONSEQUENCES.** This is one of the most important lessons we need to learn: sin always has consequences!

1. When you think of “grace,” what images come to mind? (Times when I have not received what I deserve. Jesus on the cross receiving the consequence for my sin while I enjoy God’s mercy—receiving what I do not deserve.)
2. What makes those images so significant to you? (It is life changing! All my eternal life centers around God’s grace and mercy. I could never repay the debt I owe, but He paid it for me.)

God showed Adam and Eve grace by making them garments from animal skins. He was already pushing back against the consequences of human sin, anticipating the Substitutionary death Jesus would endure for humanity, but more specifically for ME!)

3. What were the consequences Adam and Eve had to face for their sin? (Labor pains for her, hard labor for him and being driven from the Garden of Eden for both.)

They ruined this perfect environment God had prepared especially for them.

4. Why did God have to drive them from this beautiful Garden? (If they ate from the “Tree of Life” they would live forever in their sinful state!)

Sin meant Adam and Eve had to leave the garden; in addition, the Lord placed a cherub at the entrance of Eden to keep them from eating from the tree of life and remaining in sin forever. **This was another act of grace on God’s part!**

It’s important to recognize that Satan is a real enemy who is out to keep believers from walking in close relationship with God. He will do whatever he can to keep us from what God has for us. Thankfully, God is stronger than Satan, so we can always find hope in Him.

CHALLENGE!

- Satan is crafty and is actively looking for ways to deceive.
 - The promises that accompany temptation led to brokenness.
 - God offers grace in the middle of our rebellion against Him.
1. How is Satan actively looking for ways to deceive and destroy lives? (He knows our weaknesses and always attacks when least expected.)
 2. How has God offered you grace in the midst of your rebellion against Him? (He sent His only Son to pay my sin debt for which I am eternally grateful!)

One way we can honor Him for His sacrifice is to share the gospel with others so they can experience His grace also.

3. Is there someone to whom you need to extend grace—to forgive as God has forgiven you?