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**THE CURSE**

**Story:** The Fall of Man

**Scriptures to study:** Genesis 3

This discussion is based on the Friday Morning Men’s Fellowship study “Genesis”, available at <https://leadmin.org/genesis>.

Genesis 3 recounts man’s “fall”, resulting from his sin of disobedience in the Garden of Eden. We read the full account of what man did, and God’s punishment for that sin.

**It started with a lie.** God had given man one command and attached a punishment to breaking it. He told Adam and Eve if they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, “you will surely die” (Genesis 2:17). The serpent literally flipped God’s own words around in his statement: “You will not certainly die” (Genesis 3:4). Sin often begins by denying what God said, or twisting it to mean something else. At its most basic level, sin is always turning away from what God has commanded and/or created for our good.

**Sin was a deliberate act.** Eve’s decision was not impulsive. She deliberately chose to disobey God. The serpent also tempted them with power and control: “you will be like God…” (Genesis 3:5). What Eve saw was appealing at the sensory level (“good for food”), the aesthetic level (“delight to the eyes”), and the cognitive level (“make one wise”). To her, self-determination was more desirable than continued trust in and obedience to God. Adam may have been present for at least part of this interview, but chose to disobey God. He knew what God had said and was entirely culpable. Both the Hebrew term “with her” (3:6) and the subsequent judgment (3:17) suggest that, at the point of his sin, Adam compromised both his headship over his wife and his dominion over the serpent.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**There is always a consequence for disobeying God.** God gave specific punishments to the serpent, the woman and the man as a result of their sin (Genesis 3:14-19). Most importantly, God banished Adam and Eve from the Garden, and took away their immortality (Genesis 3:22-24). God’s punishment for sin was man’s separation from the presence of God, both physically and eternally. Even the work God had for man to do—tend the garden—was destroyed. Now, “By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food…” (Genesis 3:19).



Use one of these to get the group talking about today’s topic:

* Do you have a fear of falling or of high places? Have you ever had that fear and outgrew it? Why do you think some people have this fear while others don’t?
* Has someone close to you ever told you a lie, and you knew it immediately as they were saying it? Did you confront them or let it go? Why or why not?
* Did your parents give you consequences for disobeying them when you were growing up? What was a typical punishment you faced for disobedience? Spanking? Grounding? Chores?



Go in-depth with these questions. Based on your available time, choose 3-4 that you believe are most thought-provoking:

* Read Genesis 3:1-5. What was deceptive about what the serpent said? What are some examples of how leaders are deceived today?
* Read Genesis 3:6-7. What did the man and woman do to disobey God? Why were they held responsible and not just the serpent?
* Read Genesis 3:12-13. Both the man and woman tried to pass on responsibility for their actions. How does this parallel how people act today when confronted about their wrongdoing? Do we tend to “pass the buck” or take responsibility? Why?
* Why do you think God made man’s work a toil as part of his punishment? How does this affect us as leaders today?
* Several times in Genesis 3, God says man is “cursed”. What does that mean for you as a Christ-centered leader today? Are you living and leading under a curse? Why or why not?
* What are some of the ways we still act like Adam and Eve today? What are common actions we take that go against God’s commands?
* Read Genesis 3:21. What is significant about God making clothes for Adam and Eve?



* Is there ongoing sin in your life or leadership that you need to confess to God, and ask for His help to conquer? Make sure you are not living in a pattern of disobedience.
* What place does work have in your life? Is it healthy, or has it become a toil to you? How can you move toward better work-life balance?
* Are there people in your sphere of influence who need to take responsibility for their actions? What can you do to show grace and mercy, yet at the same time hold them to account if needed?



• Commentary on Genesis 3: <https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/mhc/Gen/Gen_003.cfm>

• What does Genesis 3 mean? <https://www.bibleref.com/Genesis/3/Genesis-chapter-3.html>

• *Study Guide for Genesis 3* by Chuck Smith: <https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/smith_chuck/StudyGuides_Genesis/Genesis.cfm>

• Precept outline and commentary on Genesis 3: <https://www.preceptaustin.org/genesis-3-commentary>

• *Genesis 1-11: Creation, Sin, and the Nature of God* by John MacArthur: <https://churchsource.com/products/genesis-1-to-11-creation-sin-and-the-nature-of-god>

• *Exalting Jesus in Genesis* by Phillip Bethancourt: <https://www.amazon.com/Exalting-Genesis-Christ-Centered-Exposition-Commentary/dp/0805496556/>

• *Genesis: A 12 Week Study* by Mitchell M. Kim: <https://www.amazon.com/Genesis-12-Week-Study-Knowing-Bible/dp/1433535017>

• *BibleProject Guides: Book of Genesis:* <https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-genesis/>

**More ways to apply “The Curse” to your life and leadership:**

• Scripture tells us Christians should confess our sins to one another and pray for each other. Consider having a time with your spouse or other close confidant to confess areas where you are struggling and to pray for one another.

• Look through the coming day and consider opportunities to obey God in your marriage, family and workplace. Put reminders in place (car dash, refrigerator, smart phone) to remind you to take advantage of the opportunity to obey God rather than disobey.

• List those people and areas over which you have responsibility. Consider how you can take responsibility over those areas and make adjustments that are for your good and for the good of others. Avoid the temptation to “pass the buck”.

• Consider how your business or company might be a Gospel influence with your employees, customers or in your community.

• Get involved in participating or leading a recovery program for addiction, either at your church or other local Christian organization. You can be an influence to those who are dealing with sinful addiction, or get help to alleviate your own addiction.

1. https://answersingenesis.org/sin/original-sin/lessons-from-the-fall/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)