

THE WHOLE STORY

From Genesis to Revelation

Introduction:

In Genesis 3 we read about the Fall – one of the four primary plot movements in the entire Bible. It is the turning point for all of human history, and the lens through which all Scripture must be read from this point forward. Before the events in this chapter humanity is walking with God in obedience and fellowship. After this chapter the human relationship with God is severed and sin begins to infect all of creation.

This Week's Main Focus

Every time we sin we are being deceived.

When we sin we are making a charge against the character of God.

Even after man sins against God, God is still good and merciful. By all rights he could have simply wiped humanity from existence and been done with us all together. Yet he chose to curse us in a way that more clearly reveals our need for him. Though we lament our pain and the futility of our daily tasks, it is these very things that remind us something is broken with the world that is beyond our control. God was good enough to use human authors to record all of these things in Scripture that we might be able to find the answers we seek.

As you continue to read through the Bible this year remember that sin changes everything except God. Every action of humanity from this point forward must be viewed through the light of our sinfulness. Yet God will prove time and time again that he will pursue us, that his blessings are unmerited, and that even his discipline has grace and mercy within it.

Sermon Discussion Question:

1) This weekend pastor J.D. pointed out that sin is more than just a mistake, but that it reveals our evil desires. How does a biblical understanding of sin help us interact with friends, neighbors and family members with both truth and love?

Bible Study Questions: Read Genesis 3

2) What did the Serpent and Eve say about God and his commands in verses 1-5 that create confusion and helped lead to Adam and Eve's disobedience?

3) What things did Eve perceive to be desirable in the fruit she was forbidden to eat by God? What connection can be made between desire and disobedience?

4) How did Adam and Eve fail in the garden?

5) Look back and read Genesis 1:28. How does the command to be fruitful and multiply become frustrated by the curse of pain in childbearing? (3:16) How does the command to subdue the Earth become frustrated by the ground being cursed? (3:17-19)

Group Discussion Questions:

6) How do we see the effects of the curse (3:14-19) played out in our lives today?

7) How are you struggling with the effects of the Fall right now?

- Sin's temptation affects everyone differently. Maybe you:
 - Are frustrated at work that your "ground" isn't producing the way it should despite your "toil."
 - Dominated by physical pain or suffering in your life.

Prayer:

- Read and pray Psalm 119:9-16 verse by verse in your smaller groups.

Disobedience to God's Word led to the Fall and all of human suffering.

Treasuring God's Word leads to redeeming and restoring the brokenness left by sin.