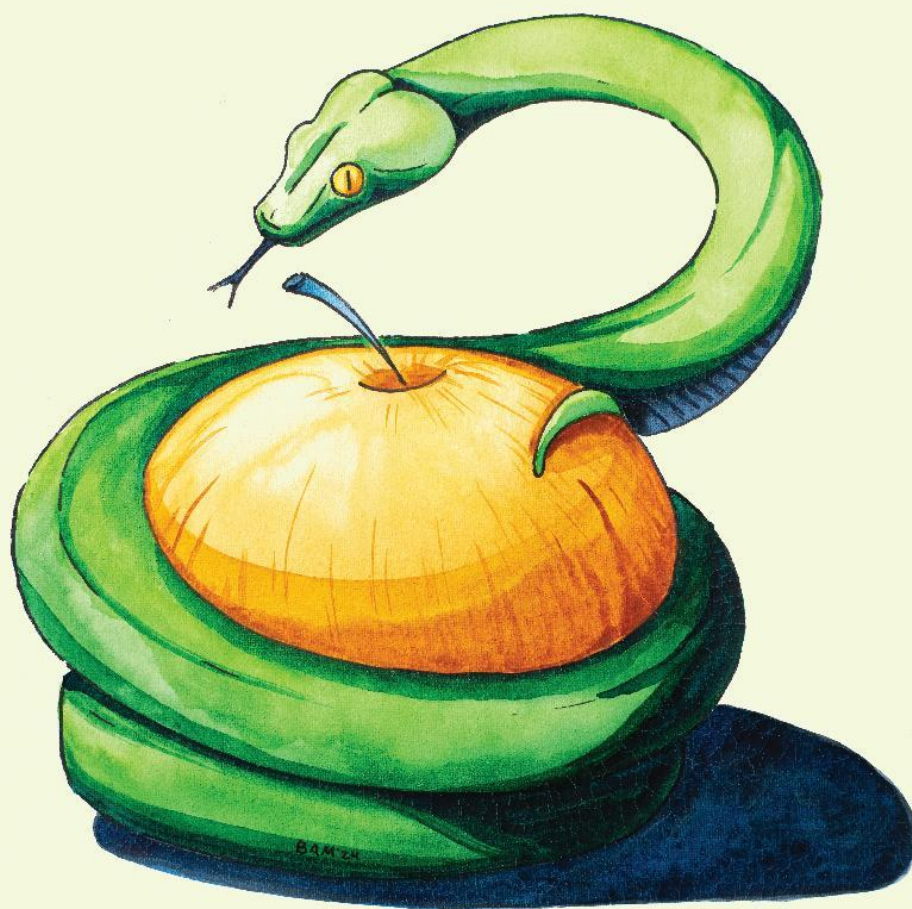




PART 2
The Fall

GENESIS

Genesis:

Trusting God's Grace in a Fallen World

We saw in Genesis 1-2 the glory of God at creation. He created a very good heavens and earth where he chose to dwell with the man and woman he created. He gave them the job of being cultivators and co-laborers with him in Eden. He made them in his image to live as his sons and daughters, ruling the earth under his great rule.

But they rebelled. They chose sin, and entered into what we call the fall. In this set of studies and sermons we will seek to understand the nature and heart of sin and the depth of the destruction it causes. We will also take hope in God's grace that he shows fallen humanity at every turn.

As always, we pray that our study will result in all of us knowing Christ and being conformed to His image. We were created in the image of God, and only through the salvation, sanctification and glorification that Christ accomplishes by His Spirit are we able to truly image God now. This Growth Guide is designed to prepare you to hear the sermon on Sunday and then discuss the passage during the week in your Growth Group, with the goal of understanding and applying it together. May we live as a loving community making disciples of Jesus Christ!

Special thanks to the artists in our church who have contributed their work for the covers of these Growth Guides! Your artwork reflects your love for the Creator who made you with these creative skills!

Nathan and the Growth Guide team: Howard Amland, Shae Brown, Chris Connelly, Tom Dudenhofer, Dan Jarms (architect of the overall preaching plan we follow), Lana Pustovit (publishing), Seth Weber (graphics), and Lynn Yount.

SCHEDULE

Lesson 1	Genesis 3:1-7	November 17, 2024
Lesson 2	Genesis 3:8-13 (Thanksgiving week)	November 24, 2024
Lesson 3	Genesis 3:14-24	December 1, 2024
Lesson 4	Genesis 3:15 - The First Gospel	December 8, 2024
Lesson 4	Christmas Messages - The Promised Savior	December 15 & 22, 2024
Lesson 5	Genesis 4:1-16	December 29, 2024
Lesson 6	Genesis 4:17-26	January 5, 2025
Lesson 7	Excursus - Story of the Bible	January 12, 2025
Lesson 8	Genesis 5	January 19, 2025

Lesson 1: The Fall

Genesis 3:1-7 - Sermon on November 17

Central Teaching & Application

The serpent tempts Eve to distrust God by doubting, distorting and denying His Word. Adam and Eve choose to reject God, seeking independence and autonomy. Recognize how you are tempted to distrust God's Word and replace wicked counsel with biblical counsel.

Launching Question

Jay Adams writes in his book *A Theology of Christian Counseling*, "Man was created for a life of joyful, grateful dependence...Man is dependent on outside counsel and man is capable of being changed by counsel. Man was made to follow another's counsel; he will do so. He cannot throw off his dependence. Knowingly or unwittingly he always depends on Satan or God. He was made to be motivated and molded by counsel." How have you seen the counsel you follow shape your life? Think of one specific example, either positive or negative.

Genesis 3:1

1. What does the passage tell us about the serpent?

2. What does the serpent first say to Eve?

Discussion Questions

3. Which character in the Bible is the serpent, according to Revelation 12:9 and 20:2?

4. What was the serpent seeking to persuade Eve to think about God with his opening question? How was this first question a distortion of God's word?

Genesis 3:2-7

5. Compare Eve's response in 3:2-3 with God's command to Adam in 2:16-17. How was her representation of God's command incomplete or incorrect?
6. What does the serpent say in 3:4-5? What is he saying about God with these assertions? How is the serpent seeking to produce doubt as well as denial of God's word?

Discussion Questions

7. What enticed Eve to want the fruit and to sin against God?
8. Eve and her husband both ate the fruit. What was Adam's role in the sin? Where was he when the serpent was tempting Eve? What did he do?

Biblical Understanding of Humanity

We were created to depend on and to be molded by God's counsel and wisdom. Even before Adam and Eve sinned, they were dependent on God's counsel, His revelation, so that they might know how to live in His world and how to love Him and one another. Someone has said that each one of us is the most influential person in our lives because we listen to ourselves more than anyone else. We are always speaking to ourselves.

Application

9. Sin always involves distrusting God as his Word is doubted, distorted and denied. Choose one sin that you are frequently tempted to commit. In what ways does this sin come from wicked counsel to doubt, distort and deny God's Word? Write out the truths you are doubting, the truths you are distorting, and the truths you are denying when you distrust God and sin in that particular way.

10. What is your strategy for listening to and following God's counsel in his Word rather than heeding the wicked counsel of the flesh, the world and the enemy? Consider Psalm 1:1-3 and how you might put it into practice?

Prayer

Our good and gracious God, we praise you for creating us to depend on your words so that we might live and be perfected as your sons and daughters. Help us to rightly identify the lies of the evil one when he encourages us to distrust you and your Word through doubt, distortion and denial. Forgive us for all the ways that we covet and reject you and think that we need something you have not given us. Give us hearts that tremble at your Word and desire to love you and depend on your counsel. Make us like the blessed person of Psalm 1:2 who delights in your law and meditates on it day and night!

Prayer Requests and Sermon Notes

Lesson 2: Fear Replaces Fellowship

Genesis 3:8-13 - Sermon on November 24

(many groups won't meet because of Thanksgiving break this week)

Central Teaching and Application

God lovingly confronts Adam & Eve in the aftermath of their sin which has caused fear and separation between humanity and God. Recognize the fellowship God wants with his children and the distance sin creates.

Launching Question

Can you think of a time when you were especially thankful after confessing sin to someone, asking for their forgiveness, and they wholeheartedly forgave you and have been gracious with you ever since?

Genesis 3:8-10

1. What do you observe about God and his relationship with Adam and Eve from 3:8? What can we understand about the way God spent time with them before they sinned?
2. What did Adam and Eve's choice to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil cause them to do in their relationship with God? Why? (*Notice their action in 3:8 and Adam's explanation of that action in 3:10.*)

Discussion Question

3. Observe God as he calls out to the man who is hiding in the garden among the trees. Certainly God knew where he was and what had happened. However, God calls out to the man, "where are you?" in 3:9. What was God possibly trying to accomplish?

Genesis 3:10-13

4. How does Adam respond to God's question? How does Eve respond? What differences do you notice between their responses?

Discussion Questions

5. How would you summarize the effects of Adam and Eve's sin on their relationship with God? What can we see about what their relationship was like before they sinned? What is their relationship with God like now?

6. What do you learn about God's heart from this passage?

7. What do you learn about the nature of sin from this passage?

Biblical Understanding of Humanity

God created humans to live with him, to spend time with him on the earth that he created as our home with him. Sin causes shame and fear and leads humans to want to hide from God and from each other. We naturally seek to blame others for our sin and to find our own ways of covering up our sin and hiding from God. God graciously has provided a way for our sins to be covered (atoned) by Christ's death on the cross in our place. He graciously clothes us with Christ's perfect righteousness so that we do not need to be ashamed or hide from him. When we trust in Christ, we know that our sins are covered and forgiven, we are clothed with Christ's righteousness, and we are empowered to love God and to love each other!

Application

8. In what ways do you currently enjoy “walking” with God? What does that look like for you?
9. What steps do you normally take when you sin?
10. What are the right ways to deal with your sin as you trust in Christ? (*Consider 1 John 1:5-10 for more insight.*) What does it mean to confess your sins?

Prayer

We praise you, our God, for your love and gracious heart that desires to live with your children. Thank you for calling out to each one of us, “where are you,” longing to share yourself with us. Help us to remember your gracious, fatherly heart and to live life with you, communing with you, and talking to you. Help us to remember you are present with us by your Spirit because of the Lord Jesus! Help us to come to you to destroy our sin through faith in Christ and all he has done to deliver us and to destroy our sin and the serpent. You are a wonderful Father and Deliverer!

Prayer Requests and Sermon Notes

Lesson 3: The Consequences of Adam & Eve's Sin

Genesis 3:14-24 - Sermon on December 1

Central Teaching and Application

Look at the grace of God even in the consequences of sin. God curses the serpent and the ground, and gives Eve pain in childbirth and Adam pain in working the earth. Yet, he promises that Eve's offspring will crush the serpent, he gives new life through Eve being able to have children, he clothes Adam and Eve with the skin of an animal he sacrificed, and he protects them from eating the fruit of the tree of life and living forever in their fallen condition.

Launching Question

What are some of the consequences of the fall of Adam and Eve that afflict you the most?

Genesis 3:14-15

1. Describe the curse that God puts on the serpent.

The First Gospel

2. We will focus more on Genesis 3:15 in next week's lesson and sermon. This is often called the "First Gospel." We have the bad news of the consequences of sin being explained, but even before God explains those consequences to Adam and Eve, he gives this promise. What exactly does God promise will happen in this verse through the offspring of the "mother of all living"?

Genesis 3:16-19

3. What are the consequences of sin that Eve, and by extension, all women will face?

4. What consequences does God give to Adam, and by extension all of humanity, as a result of their sin?

Discussion Questions

5. Genesis 3:16 says that Eve's desire would literally be "against" her husband, and he would rule over her. These same words are used in Genesis 4:7 to describe how Cain's sin desires to dominate and even destroy him. We see here that a desire for autonomy on the part of the woman and conflict in the relationship between husband and wife are consequences of the fall. How do you see this desire for autonomy leading to conflict in marriage in our society today?
6. What happens to work and to the fruitfulness of the ground because of the fall? How is work different now than it was before Adam and Eve sinned?

Genesis 3:20-24

7. What does God do for Adam and Eve in 3:21?
8. What actions does God take in 3:22-24? Why?

Biblical Understanding of Humanity

Sin has brought devastating effects on the key relationships that humans have. The relationship between men and women is affected as women and men desire to dominate and destroy each other rather than to selflessly love and serve one another. The relationship between humanity and the earth has been broken. The earth fights back with "thorns, thistles, tempests and tsunamis." At every turn we face difficulties and disasters from the earth that was meant to be under our dominion and rule.

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Things don't always go as we would hope though. There is much disappointment and difficulty in this life. The earth fights against us. People in our lives fight against us. Our own destructive desires fight against us. In this fight it is easy to get weary. Yet, we have a great source of strength. The Lord Jesus has lived in this same difficult life and is able to help us! He is sympathetic and strong and can help all who draw near to him! (Hebrews 4:14-16)

Discussion Questions

9. How is God killing an animal and clothing Adam and Eve with its skin a shadow (something that points forward) of the work of Christ that is to come? (*Consider the concept of shadow in Colossians 2:17 and the description of Christ's work in Hebrews 9:11-14.*)

Application

10. Today we still deal with the consequences of sin. What are some of the most difficult effects of sin that you face?

11. God provided Adam and Eve with a promise (3:15), with a provision for covering their sin (3:21), with a purpose (3:23) and with protection against facing their sin's consequences forever (3:24). What are some of the promises, provisions, purposes and protections God has given you now to help you deal with sin, and ultimately to deliver you from your sin?

Prayer

God, you are gracious to us even in our sin and its consequences. Thank you for cursing the serpent and the ground, but not Adam and Eve. Thank you that even the pain of childbirth and the pain of working the ground remind us of the foolishness of sin and our need for a Savior. Thank you that through the woman who was deceived you promise to send a Savior who will deliver all humanity from the curse and from our sin! Thank you for clothing us with Christ and his righteousness as you once clothed Adam and Eve with skins from an animal that died in their place. We praise you Christ for dying in our place and for rising to conquer all sin and death! Thank you for keeping Adam and Eve from eating from the tree of life so that we could be freed by physical death to rise again with resurrected bodies like the Lord Jesus, forever free from sin and shame and death! Help us to work

hard for you as the earth groans under the curse, hoping in you for strength now and for perfect deliverance in the future!

Prayer Requests and Sermon Notes

Lesson 4: The Promised Savior!

Genesis 3:15 and select passages - Sermons on December 8, 15, 22

Central Teaching & Application

God promised that the offspring of Eve would war against the serpent and would destroy him. Rejoice because Jesus has defeated the serpent!

Launching Question

What is your favorite story (movie series or book or historical event) of a hero defeating an evil enemy?

Genesis 3:15

1. What does God tell the serpent (and by extension the man and the woman) in Genesis 3:15?
2. How do you see the hostility or enmity between the serpent (Satan) and the woman (humanity) in the following passages?
 - Psalm 2:1-3
 - Colossians 1:21
 - Revelation 12:1-6
3. God promised that in this war between the serpent and the offspring of the woman, her offspring would destroy the serpent. How do the following passages describe the victorious offspring of the woman and his work?

2 Samuel 7:12-16

Psalm 2:4-12

Daniel 7:9-14

Revelation 20:1-10

Discussion Questions

4. In what ways do you see this great conflict between the serpent and the offspring of the woman playing out now in the conflicts among families, nations and between people and God? What are the strategies of the serpent to destroy the offspring of the woman? (*Consider Ephesians 6:10-19.*)

5. What is God's strategy for destroying the serpent? What did Christ do to destroy the serpent according to 1 John 3:8 (see also 1 John 4:7-12 and Romans 5:12-21)?

Sacrificial Substitute

"This pattern of sacrificial substitution (that we see in the killing of an animal to make clothes for Adam and Eve) culminates in the cross of Christ...Other links to the tragic events of Genesis 3 are seen throughout the Passion Narrative. For example, it is no accident that the promised restoration of the kingdom begins in *the garden* of Gethsemane (John 18:1). And innocent Jesus literally takes the curse upon himself as he is crucified on a *tree*. "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." (Gal 3:13) That a crown of *thorns* is placed on his head brings to mind God's curse involving the ground (Gen 3:18). In death, he is laid to rest with the expectation that his body will return to *dust* like any other man's. Yet, while Jesus chose to live under the curse and even die, he nevertheless triumphs. He is the rescue plan." (Quote from Bethancourt, *Exalting Jesus in Genesis*, p.44)

Matthew 4:1-11

6. How does Satan tempt Jesus?
7. How does Jesus resist the temptations of Satan?
8. According to Hebrews 4:14-16, what is Jesus able to do now for us?

Application

9. What stands out to you from the promises that we read about the One who would come and crush the serpent? Write a prayer of thanksgiving and rejoicing as you consider the glorious promises that we have seen about the seed who would destroy the serpent.
10. What lies of the serpent are you still tempted to believe? What truths from the Word of God can you use to combat these lies of the enemy?
11. How does Christ's victory over Satan empower you now to obey God and resist temptation? What tools has he given you to enable you to stand firm? (*Consider Ephesians 6:10-19.*)

Prayer Requests and Sermon Notes

Lesson 5: Abel's Worship and Cain's Temptation

Genesis 4:1-16 - Sermon on December 29

Central Teaching and Application

God shows his grace to Adam and Eve by giving them children. The Lord is pleased with Abel's offering and not pleased with Cain. God has mercy on Cain by counseling him about his temptation to sin in his anger and the opportunity to repent of prideful self-righteousness. Cain murdered Abel and then expresses remorse about the curses God puts on him. Turn to Christ quickly when your worship falls short and trust his sacrifice.

Launching Question

Can you think of a time that you were not able to solve a problem or fix a situation yourself and you became angry about it? Describe that situation.

Genesis 4:1-7

1. Adam and Eve sinned by rejecting God's command and listening to the wicked counsel of the serpent. As a result, God said they would die. They were expelled from the Garden of Eden. However, God had promised that the offspring of the woman would destroy the serpent. What do you see in Genesis 4:1 that shows God's kindness and gives hope for the fulfillment of the promise of Genesis 3:15?
2. What do you see about Cain's offering to the Lord and Abel's offering to the Lord? What did they each offer and how did God respond?

Discussion Questions

3. Read Hebrews 11:4 and Jude 11. What do these New Testament references tell us about Abel's and Cain's offerings?

4. Why do you think God did not have regard for Cain's offering but did have regard for Abel's offering? *Consider Leviticus 2:12 and Numbers 18:12 as you think about why God might not have accepted Cain's offering.*

5. How does Jesus fulfill the need for a sacrifice to cover our sins (See *John 1:29, Hebrews 9:11-14*)?

Genesis 4:8-16

6. Cain spoke to his brother Abel and then when they were in the field Cain murdered Abel. God asks Cain, "Where is your brother?" He gives Cain a chance to confess his sin. What does Cain's response, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" and his response in 4:5 show us about Cain's heart?

7. God tells Cain he is cursed from the ground which has received his brother's blood; it will no longer yield to him what he needs. He will be a fugitive and wanderer on the earth. What do we learn about Cain from his response to the consequences God gives him?

8. How does God show kindness to Cain even in the midst of his consequences?

Discussion Questions

9. Based on Cain's response to God in 4:9 and then his response to his consequences in 4:13-14, would you say he has godly sorrow leading to true repentance or worldly sorrow leading to death (2 Corinthians 7:9-10)? Why?

Biblical Understanding of Humanity

We see in this passage the first recorded instance of unacceptable offerings to God and sinful anger and jealousy as a response. Cain was seeking to be made right with God and to earn God's favor and approval through his own prideful actions. He experienced the inadequacy of his efforts to approach God on his own terms. We see that a strong root of anger and jealousy is a broken relationship with God. The answer is turning to Jesus, who made the perfect offering to God, and finding full and wonderful grace and favor from God. His grace and favor gives us peace and love that we can show to others rather than angry violence.

Application

10. God counsels Cain that sin's desire is against him, ready to destroy him. However, God tells him he must rule over it. What sinful desires are waging war against you? How can you rule over those desires through faith in Christ? (*Consider what Colossians 3:1-8 teaches us about how to put to death sinful desires.*)

11. Abel made an acceptable sacrifice to God. Jesus made the ultimate acceptable sacrifice to God. Now, in view of God's mercies to us in Christ, we are commanded to offer ourselves as living sacrifices to God, holy and acceptable to God (Romans 12:1-2). How can you offer yourself as a living sacrifice to God as you remember and give thanks for the perfect, sufficient sacrifice of Jesus?

Prayer

We praise you God for your kindness to Adam and Eve in giving them children. Thank you for how you have delivered the promised offspring of Eve who has crushed the head of the serpent, our Lord Jesus Christ! Despite all your goodness to us, we confess that like Cain, we have fallen short in our offerings to you. Thank you that you counsel us in our fallen, prideful and foolish condition. Thank you that you offer us a way to do well and be accepted through repentance and faith in Christ. Thank you, Christ, that you have ruled over and conquered sin through your own perfect life and through your death on our behalf! Spirit, help us to recognize sinful desires that wage war against us and to rule over them by faith in Christ and our union with him in his death and resurrection!

Prayer Requests and Sermon Notes

Lesson 6: Cain & Lamech and Seth & Enosh

Genesis 4:17-26 - Sermon on January 5

Central Teaching and Application

Despite his sin, God is kind to Cain and prospers his family line, who respond with further rebellion against God. In contrast to the dismal line of Cain, God blessed Eve with another son, Seth. When Seth had Enosh, his son, people began to call on the Lord. Recognize the destruction and death that comes from sin and call on the name of the Lord!

Launching Question

In what ways do the choices of parents set a trajectory for many generations after them, whether good or bad? Is it possible for later generations to change course from previous generations? If so, how?

Genesis 4:17-24

1. What do we learn about Cain and his descendants from this section?
2. What things do Cain and his descendants do in their efforts to cultivate the earth and rule over it?

Biblical Understanding of Humanity

We are tasked to cultivate and rule over the earth. This includes all the ways we develop culture (music and art), livestock for our food and supplies, and tools that we use for cultivating crops on the earth. We cultivate many other things also through our technology, art, families and relationships.

Discussion Questions

3. What are some negative things that you see humanity developing or cultivating that we should think critically about, put away and perhaps speak out against?

4. Lamech is a prominent descendant of Cain. Based on his song about himself, what can you say about Lamech and his character?

Genesis 4:25-26

5. What happens that gives renewed hope that God will keep the promise of giving Eve an offspring that will crush the serpent?

Discussion Question

- Kenneth Matthews in his *New American Commentary, Genesis 1-11:26*, says this about calling on the name of the Lord: “Called” can be taken as “invoking” the Lord in prayer and worship (as NRSV, REB) or as “proclaiming” in the sense of declaring the revelation of God (e.g., Exod 33:19; 34:5; Deut 32:3).”
6. What does it mean that at the time of Enosh, the son of Seth, people began calling on the name of the Lord?

Application

7. At the time of Seth and his son Enosh people began to call on the name of the Lord. What are some of the ways that we can be calling on the name of the Lord personally, in our families, and in our church?

8. What good things do you want to cultivate in our culture as part of your worship of God as you call upon his name and seek to live for the glory of his name?

9. What truths about God and his kindness do you see in this passage that you want to remember?

Pray

We praise you, our God, for giving humanity the ability to build cities, to make musical instruments, to care for livestock, and to make useful tools. Thank you for providing another line, the line of Seth, through which you sent the Savior, the seed of the woman who crushes the serpent. We call upon your name and worship you, Yahweh. You are our Lord and our Savior. We want to be like the people of the Seth and Enosh's line, proclaiming truthfully who you are and living in dependence on you. May you be praised through our lives!

Prayer Requests and Sermon Notes

Lesson 7: Storyline of the Bible

Select Passages - Sermon on January 12

Central Teaching and Application

Throughout the Bible God is displaying his glory through creation, fall, promise, redemption and restoration as he establishes his kingdom in Christ. It is helpful to understand the storyline of the Bible as we develop our awareness of how God communicates his glory through the Bible and become proficient at reading His Word.

Launching Question

How does understanding the storyline of a book or a movie help you to make sense of it?

Purpose of the Bible - 2 Timothy 3:14-17, Deuteronomy 29:29

1. What do these verses tell us about the purpose or function of the Bible?

Theme of the Bible - Psalm 145:8-13, Daniel 4:3, 34-35

2. What do you see in these verses that could be used to describe the theme of the Bible?

Storyline of the Bible

We could describe the storyline of the Bible with the following five words: Creation, Fall, Promise, Redemption, New Creation (or Restoration).

Because these five events describe the storyline of the Bible, one way to describe the theme of the Bible is, "God is displaying his glory through creation, fall, promise, redemption and restoration. In all this, he is making a people for himself through Christ by the Spirit."

Creation

3. What does Genesis 1-2 show us about God's purpose in creation? What do Isaiah 43:7 and Colossians 1:16 show us about God's purpose?

Fall

4. What are the main events of the fall? (Consider Genesis 3-11).

Promise

5. God makes promises that form covenants with his people. These promises are the basis of our faith. The fulfillment of these promises is the work of redemption. We already saw God's promise in Genesis 3:15 to bruise the head of the serpent through the seed of the woman. What promises does God make to Abram/ Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3, 15:18-21 and 17:5-8?

6. What promises does God make to the nation of Israel in Deuteronomy 30:1-10?

7. What promises does God make to King David in 2 Samuel 7:12-16?

8. What promises does God make to Israel in Jeremiah 31:31-37 and Ezekiel 36:22-32?

9. What promises does God make about Redemption in Isaiah 53?

10. What promises for the future does God make in Zephaniah 3:8-10 and in Isaiah 65:17-20?

Redemption

11. What are the main events of the story of redemption? Consider what you see in the Gospel of Luke about the life of Jesus and the book of Acts about the church?

Restoration / New Creation

12. What do you see in Revelation 19-22 about the final restoration or the New Creation? What are the main events?

Application

13. What are you thankful for as you consider the storyline of the Bible?

14. What is one aspect of the storyline that you want to remember as you seek to walk with Christ this week?

Prayer

God, you are worthy of all glory and praise! You are a majestic King who is establishing your kingdom through creation, fall, promise, redemption and restoration. You are making a people for yourself, and we rejoice at how you are doing that through the Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to always keep in mind the story of your glory and how we fit into that story as subjects in your kingdom and recipients of your grace. Help us to grow in understanding the story of the Bible as we read it so that we can always see how each part of your Word displays your glory!

Prayer Requests and Sermon Notes

Lesson 8: The Generations of Adam

Genesis 5 - Sermon on January 19

Central Teaching and Application

God keeps his word as humanity keeps dying as a result of their sin. However, God shows mercy as humanity keeps having more children, leading toward the promised Savior. The genealogy from Adam to Noah connects Creation to the Flood.

Launching Question

What is exciting to you about genealogy?

Genesis 5:1-5

1. What truths are rehearsed here again that we already saw in Genesis 1?
2. Adam who was created in the image and likeness of God fathered a son in his own likeness and image. What does this mean for Seth, his son, and for all subsequent generations of humanity?

Discussion Question

3. Why do you think Moses (inspired by the Holy Spirit) repeated these truths in Genesis 5:1-5 after the terrible events of Genesis 3-4?

Genesis 5:6-24

4. What do you see in the repeated formula for each person in this list? How does this show us that God is both holy and just (in following through with what he says will happen as a result of sin) and merciful?
5. What is different about the description of Enoch?

Discussion Questions

6. What does it mean that Enoch walked with God? What does Hebrews 11:5 tell us about Enoch's life?
7. Who else did God take up to heaven in this unusual way? What did it show about them and their relationship with God?

Being Taken Up to Heaven

What do Enoch, Elijah, Jesus, and the church have in common? Each of them has been taken up to heaven by God, or they will be one day. Enoch walked with God and then God took him up to heaven. Elijah faithfully served God and one day was taken up to God in a chariot of fire. Jesus died, rose again and walked on earth for a time. Then, he ascended to heaven or was taken up to heaven. One day, when he returns, the church will be taken up to meet him in the air and will always be with him then (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). Our hope and joy is that God is a God who delights to walk with his people and who eventually will bring them to be with him forever because he wants to live with them. His desire to be with his people will win out over all that gets in the way because the Lord Jesus Christ has overcome!

Genesis 5:25-32

8. What do we learn from Lamech about the reason he named his son Noah? What was Lamech's hope?

Application

9. In what ways do you see the image of God being renewed in you through your faith in Christ and his work in you? How do you want to grow in being like Christ?

10. In what ways do you see the image of Adam in his sinfulness still affecting you? How do you want to put off or put away the old person you inherited from Adam?

11. Enoch walked with God and pleased God. How can you pursue walking with God more closely this week? What is one action step you can take?

Prayer

Oh Father, you are so good to us. You want to walk with your people. You gave mercy and grace to generations of people so that through them you could bring to the earth the Savior, the Lord Jesus. Thank you for the generations from Seth to Noah. Thank you for your kindness to each of them. Thank you for examples like Enosh who encourage us to walk with God. We look forward to being taken up to be with you forever, eventually on the new earth in your perfect kingdom!

Prayer Requests and Sermon Notes

Lesson 9: Wicked Humanity Grieves God, Noah Found Favor

Genesis 6:1-8 - Sermon on January 26

Central Teaching and Application

The sinfulness of humanity is multiplied, grieving God severely. God decides to destroy all of the earth except Noah and his family and some animals with them. Fear God and seek to live by faith in him!

Launching Question

Can you think of a time that you were grieved by someone's sinful actions? How did you respond/act?

Genesis 6:1-8

1. What are the situations that this passage describes to show how sinful the people on the earth were at this time?

2. Who was having children in 6:1-2 and 6:4? How are their children described?

Sons of God and the Nephilim

There are two main views about who the sons of God are in 6:1-4. The first view sees them as fallen angels who are procreating with women. Sons of God refers to angels in several passages in Job and elsewhere. MacArthur and others believe this passage is describing demons who are possessing humans and marrying women. This view is strengthened by passages like Jude 6 which describe fallen angels who left the domain God had given them.

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The other main view is that the sons of God refer to godly descendants of Seth who married women who were not part of the godly line. This was the view of Church Fathers like Augustine and Reformers like Luther and Calvin. They teach that the godly descendants of Seth had embraced the same sin and rejection of God that the descendants of Cain were embracing.

The Nephilim are literally the “fallen ones” and refers to powerful, evil people who were ruling at that time on the earth. They are not necessarily the offspring of the sons of God, but were famous people of the pre flood world who were well known for their power and greatness, as we see in the way the fearful spies of Israel referred to the people of Canaan as Nephilim in Numbers 13.

Regardless of the view you adopt on who the sons of God are, the main point of this section is how wickedness was spreading on the earth through humanity, thus necessitating God’s decisive judgment and destruction.

3. What does God see in humanity according to 6:5? What was God’s response to this in 6:6?

4. What does God decide to do in 6:3 & 6:7 because of the sinfulness of humanity?

Discussion Question

5. In what ways are things better or worse now than they were in the days of Noah?

Application

6. How do you want to grow in loving others as God has loved you? What are some specific things you want to do? *Consider Noah’s example as you see it in 6:8-9.*

7. Write a prayer to the Lord confessing your own sin and lamenting the sin of the world.

Prayer Requests and Sermon Notes

GROUPS

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