



## In the beginning God.... Leaders Guide Week 7

(Times are approximate) – start time: \_\_\_\_\_

### Welcome

(+3 min)

### Opening prayer

(+1 min)

### Opening Comments –

- This lesson is foundational to the beginning of our understanding of why the world is the way it is.
- We will see the flow from perfect human to fallen man and woman in this lesson as you know.
- We begin with the temptation and the exercise of Adam and Eve's free wills to think about what the serpent was offering.
- Their second step was thinking about how they could benefit as a result of the serpent's prodding.
- Eve finally decides she would like to taste the fruit knowing full well that she was not to do so.
- The way evil often works is to make something look enticing or to encourage us into thinking it is enticing.
- Things, as we have learned over the years, aren't always as good as they appear.
- Very quickly after Eve decides the fruit looks appealing, she takes it and eats.
- Remember that Adam is there with her and doesn't say a thing!
- People would probably say, "That first bite broke the relationship with God" but that would be incorrect.
- The first decision to go ahead and do it broke the relationship with God because at the instant, Eve's heart was not true to God but herself.
- He knows what is in our heart - Mark 7:20-22 Jesus said, "He went on: "What comes out of a person is what defiles them. <sup>21</sup> For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup> adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly.""
- So sin entered the world by the free choice of Adam and Eve.
- They could have told the serpent to get lost, get out of here but they didn't.
- Finally, when God comes to them in the morning, they hide from Him.
- People have been trying to do this ever since.
- When we get caught, we pass the buck like Adam and Eve did.
- So this should be a very interesting discussion time.

(+3 min)

### Discussion of the Study Lesson – (~50 min) – Weekly theme: The fall from perfection.

#### Day 1: Overview – Read Genesis 3:1-13

1. Describe the events which take place in Genesis 3:1-13.

- Answers will vary.

## Genesis Leaders Guide Week 7

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- The serpent approached Eve; misquoted God's words; Eve explained the command; the serpent convinced her she wouldn't die; he enticed her by making her think she would be like God; she saw the fruit was pleasing to the eye; desirable to gain knowledge; she ate and then gave some to Adam; they realized they were naked; they hid from God; He questioned them; they passed the buck.

(+2 min)

2. What do you learn about this serpent according to the following passages: Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:12-15 (This prophecy was about the king of Tyre, but as with many prophecies, they often point to multiple occasions and many scholars, such as Matthew Henry, Dr. Walter Kaiser, William Barclay, and others, believe this is one of those cases.)

- Answers will vary.

**Isaiah 14:12-15** – *"How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit."*

**Ezekiel 28:12-15** – *"Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you."*

- He fell from heaven; he had a place of distinction in heaven; his "will" brought him down (Isaiah)
- He was a model of perfection; wise; beautiful; adorned with precious metals/stones; a guardian cherub; blameless in his ways UNTIL wickedness found him.

(+3 min)

3. What are some names used for Satan in these passages: John 8:44, 12:31; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2;

**John 8:44** – *"You belong to your father(note lower case 'f'), the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies"*

**John 12:31** – *"Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out"*

**2 Corinthians 4:4** – *"The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God"*

**Ephesians 2:2** – *"in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit (note lower case 's') who is now at work in those who are disobedient"*

- Some names: father, murderer, liar, father of lies, prince of this world, god of this age, ruler of the kingdom of the air, spirit works in disobedient.

(+2 min)

4. Using Matthew 8:28-31, 12:24; 1 Corinthians 10:20-21; and Revelation 12:7, 9; identify the helpers of Satan:

**Matthew 8:28-31** – “When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. <sup>29</sup> “What do you want with us, Son of God?” they shouted. “Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?” Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. <sup>31</sup> The demons begged Jesus, “If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs”

**Matthew 12:24** – “But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons”

**1 Corinthians 10:20-21** – “No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons”

**Revelation 12:7, 9** – “And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back” and “The great dragon was hurled down--that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him”

- Some names are: demons and devil's angels.

(+2 min)

5. Select from some of the following passages and list some of the methods Satan uses to carry out his evil work: Matthew 4:3; 1 Thessalonians 3:5; John 13:2, 27; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; Matthew 13:19; 1 Thessalonians 2:17-18; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10

- **Leaders should share answers to all the passages that are not covered by the group members.**

**Matthew 4:3** – “The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread”

- He uses **temptation**.

**1 Thessalonians 3:5** – “For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless”

- Again is the mention of **temptation**.

**John 13:2, 27** – “The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus” and “As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. “What you are about to do, do quickly,” Jesus told him”

- He uses **direct suggestion**.

**2 Corinthians 11:13-15** – “For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve”

- He **falsifies the truth**.

**Matthew 13:19** – “When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path”

- He seeks to **stop the gospel message** from being received and acted upon.

**1 Thessalonians 2:17-18** – “But, brothers, when we were torn away from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you. For we wanted to come to you--certainly I, Paul, did, again and again--but Satan stopped us”

- Again, he **seeks to stop the gospel message**.

**2 Corinthians 4:3-4** – “And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God”

- He **blinds the minds** of unbelievers so they cannot see the truth.
- 2 **Thessalonians 2:9-10** – *“The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved”*
- He can perform **counterfeit miracles, signs, and wonders** for the purpose of **deceiving those who are lost**.
- Why look up all these Scriptures and find out these things about Satan and his demons/angels?
- In the movie *Patton* there was a scene in which for the first time the American general encounters the tank corps of Germany’s North African army under command of the brilliant strategist Rommel, “The Desert Fox.” Rommel’s tanks had been destroying the western armies. But Patton out thinks him and ambushes him. After the battle, Patton said, “Rommel, you blank-blank-blank, I read your book.”
- To beat Satan and his helpers we must know how he operates and be ready to defend against him.
- The Bible is the book to read if you want to beat him!

(+4 min)

**Application 1:** How will you protect yourself from Satan’s influence today and this week? What can you do?  
(+1 min)

### Day 2: The temptation. – Read Genesis 3:1-5

1. Why might Eve have been attracted to the serpent based on Ezekiel 28:12-15? What trait stood out about the serpent above the other beasts Genesis 3:1?

- According to the Ezekiel passage, he was described at being beautiful, wise, ornately adorned.
- Eve had probably never seen anything like him.
- It is interesting to note that the passage doesn’t indicate she was surprised that the serpent could speak.
- Genesis 3:1 says he was the craftiest of all the wild animals.
- Think about this too, she had no negative experiences at this time in her life.
- BUT, she did know what Adam had told her about the forbidden tree.

(+1 min)

2. What was wrong with the question the serpent asked Eve in Genesis 3:1 (see Genesis 2:16-17)? What does this tell you about Satan and his use of Scripture? What tactic is the serpent using at this point?

**Genesis 3:1** – *“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from **any** tree in the garden’?”*

**Genesis 2:16-17** – *“And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”*

- The serpent misquoted what God had told Adam.
- Satan did the same thing when he confronted Jesus after His forty days of fasting!
- This is a technique he likes to use!
- Whether he himself, one of his demons, or people, who are blinded to his ways, he uses to misquote scripture.

(+1 min)

3. What was wrong with Eve's response to the serpent Genesis 3:2-3? How does this demonstrate to you the need to study the Bible?

- *This is a two part question, be sure to get answers to both parts.*

**Genesis 3:2-3** – “The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

- **Part 1:** Eve had most of what God had told Adam correct. She just added they “could not touch it.”
- **Part 2:** To be accurate with scripture, it is necessary that we study it often.

**(+1 min)**

4. What tactic is the serpent using on Eve in Genesis 3:4-5? Why didn't that tactic work on Jesus in Matthew 4:1-11?

- *This is a two part question, be sure to get answers for both parts.*
- **Part 1:** It is important to see the progression the serpent used to weaken Eve's innocence.
- His first tactic focused on her mind and getting her to waver.
- He caused Eve to question God's words by asking, “Did God really say ....? (Genesis 3:1)”
- As a child, friends would sometimes say, “did your Dad really say you couldn't...?” It worked sometimes.
- The consequences were never worth the “wavering thoughts!”
- The serpent then reinforces his first tactic by saying, “You will not surely die” – more doubt!
- The serpent then moves to a second tactic which builds on the first one – doubt/questions then pride!
- The serpent says, “For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”
- The big difference in the knowledge that God has of good and evil versus the knowledge the serpent has is that God hates evil and the serpent lives for it!
- And the serpent wants everyone he can get to join him!
- **Part 2:** These tactic didn't work on Jesus because he didn't believe Satan!
- He heard what Satan said but didn't believe him and Jesus also knew how Satan was misquoting scripture.
- Jesus answered Satan by quoting scripture. This is why is it important for us to be able to quote scripture when we are tempted.

**(+2 min)**

**Application 2:** What tactics might Satan be using on you either directly, or through his demons, or just by the people in your sphere of influence? What will you take from this lesson to help you follow the Lord today?

**(+1 min)**

**Day 3: The acceptance. – Read Genesis 3:6**

1. What three characteristics did Eve identify about the fruit of the tree? Do you think the appearance of the fruit helped Eve make her decision? How quickly did she move into sin after noticing the characteristics of the fruit? What do you learn from Eve's actions?

- *This is a four part question, be sure to get the answers to all parts.*
- Answers will vary.
- Part 1: The fruit was good for food, it was pleasing to the eye, and it was desirable for gaining wisdom.
- Part 2: This is an opinion question - probably so – scripture seems to indicate that because of the next part of the question.
- Part 3: This is another opinion question - seems she immediately took some fruit ate it!
- Part 4: Answers will vary. (sometimes things that appear innocent enough... aren't)

(+3 min)

2. Below are five phases Eve went through resulting in her sin. How do the scripture passages relate to the associated phase?

Phase 1 – She listened to the serpent – What does James 4:7 say we are to do?

Phase 2 – She looked at what the serpent was referring to – What do you learn from James 1:14; 1 John 2:16?

Phase 3 – She received the fruit – How does James 1:15 relate?

Phase 4 – She ate the fruit – What does James 2:10 warn us about?

Phase 5 – She offered the fruit to Adam – What are the warnings in Leviticus 19:11?

**Phase 1: James 4:7** – “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

- We have the power and authority in Christ to 1) submit ourselves to God; 2) to resist the devil.
- We should not listen once we realize what is being said goes against God and His Word.

**Phase 2: James 1:14** – “*but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed*”

- Visual enticement is a common tool used by Satan and others.
- We need to avoid looking (the eyes are the window to the mind) at things we should not.
- Adults often say they are impervious to TV, movies, and violent video games.
- If that is true, if we have such wonderful defenses, why are corporations spending six million dollars for a 30 second commercial during this years super bowl if they don't have an effect on our minds?
- It is foolish thinking we can watch evil, violence, sex and not be affected by what we see!

**Phase 2: 1 John 2:16** – “*For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--comes not from the Father but from the world*”

- This is a warning about our cravings, lust of his eyes, and boasting.
- It is interesting that the “lust of his eyes” is sandwiched between cravings and boasting.

**Phase 3: James 1:15** – “*Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death*”

- Eve accepted the fruit, she has passed the threshold of reason and thinking and now is ready for the birth of sin which will lead ultimately to death!
- Listening is dangerous, observing adds to that danger, and accepting the sin is over the threshold.

**Phase 4: James 2:10** – “*For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.*”

- James warns that no matter how trivial or unimportant the sin may appear, stumbling once cost us our lives, we are guilty of breaking all of the law!

**Leviticus 19:11** – “*Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not deceive one another*”

- Eve passed the fruit on to Adam and Leviticus warns us to not deceive one another.
- We often view our sins as not being sins and even encourage others to do the same thing.

- This is the warning Leviticus is talking about.

**(+4 min)**

3. What does *loving the world* (1 John 2:15-17) mean to you? Are there situations when you tend to love the world more than God?

- *This is a two part question, be sure to get answers for both parts.*

**1 John 2:15-17** – *“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever”*

- John, having assured the believers of their position before God (previous verses), that their sins are forgiven, they know the Father, and they have overcome the evil one, he moves to application.
- He warns them not to love the world and gives two reasons: 1) Love of the world precludes love for the Father, and 2) the investment of love in the world is without meaning because the world is passing away.
- The love of the world versus the love of the Father provides yet another "test" for believers to walk in the light.
- Also, the world here is presented as the evil system totally under the grip of the devil.
- It is the "godless world" (NEB), the world of enmity against God (James 4:4).
- Love also means something different in this passage.
- Here it is not the selfless love for one's brother, but the love that entices by evil desire, or base appetite that which is forbidden.
- It is the world's ability to seduce the believer, to drag him/her away from love of the Father that concerns John.
- "Anything in the world" is not a reference to "natural" phenomena, as verse 16 makes clear.

**(+2 min)**

4. Where was Adam during all this? Who did God command not to eat of the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil?” What does this tell you about Adam?

- *This is a three part question, be sure to get answers to all three parts.*
- **Part 1:** Adam was standing right there with Eve because Genesis 3:6 says she *“gave some to her husband, who was with her”*
- **Part 2:** In Genesis 2:16 God commanded Adam that he could eat from any tree in the garden except this one.
- **Part 3:** Not making excuses for Eve, there is a significant difference in her sin compared to his.
- Eve sinned because she was deceived by the serpent.
- What she did was sin, but it was not purposeful rebellion against God.
- It seems her focus was on gaining wisdom and/or knowledge, not rebelling against God.
- Adam on the other hand has no excuse!
- He sinned in utter rebellion against God!
- Remember God had placed Adam in the garden as lord of creation and had given him the fruit of all the trees except one.
- He told Adam specifically to not eat of that tree. If he ate it he would die.
- Adam, in full knowledge of what he was doing, took the fruit and ate it.

- Dr. James Boice says, “in effect [Adam says], “I do not care if I am allowed to eat of all the trees north of here, east of here, south of here, or west of here. So long as that one tree stands in the garden as a symbol of my creaturehood, so long as it is there to remind me that I am not God, that I am not perfectly autonomous – so long as it is there, I hate it! So I will eat of it and die.”<sup>1</sup>
- This is why the Bible never places blame for the fall of the human race on the woman Eve.
- People who blame Eve for the fall have not studied Genesis 2-3 and understood these facts.

**(+2 min)**

**Application 3:** How will you avoid temptations this day and the rest of the week? You better have a plan because Satan does.

**(+1 min)**

### **Day 4: The broken relationship. – Read Genesis 3:7-8**

1. What did Adam and Eve attempt to do after they had eaten the fruit? What do you think they had lost as a result of their sin?

- *This is a two part question, be sure to get answers for both parts.*
- Part 1 & 2: “The text tells us that they saw that they were naked, that is,  
[1.] That they were stripped, deprived of all the honors and joys of their paradise-state, and exposed to all the miseries that might justly be expected from an angry God. They were disarmed; their defense had departed from them.  
[2.] They were shamed, for ever shamed, before God and angels. They saw themselves disrobed of all their ornaments and ensigns of honor, degraded from their dignity and disgraced in the highest degree, laid open to the contempt and reproach of heaven, and earth, and their own consciences. Now see here, First, What a dishonor and uneasiness sin is; it makes mischief wherever it is admitted, sets men (women) against themselves disturbs their peace, and destroys all their comforts. Sooner or later, it will have shame, either the shame of true repentance, which ends in glory, or that shame and everlasting contempt to which the wicked shall rise at the great day.”<sup>2</sup>

**(+2 min)**

2. Name some of the painful effects Adam and Eve experienced as a result of gaining the knowledge of good and evil:

- Guilt feelings (7); ashamed of something that was perfectly natural before (nakedness) (7); the onset of fear (8)

**(+1 min)**

3. Why do you think they hid from God? Where did they hide (8)?

- First, what was the cause and occasion of their fear: They heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day.
- It was the approach of the Judge that put fear into them; and yet He came in such a manner as made it formidable only to guilty consciences.
- Second, He came walking, not running, not riding upon the wings of the wind, but walking deliberately, as one slow to anger, teaching us, whenever we are provoked, we should not be angered in haste, but to speak and act considerately and not in a rash manner.

- Third, He came in the cool of the day, not in the night, when all fears are doubly fearful, nor in the heat of day, for He came not in the heat of His anger.
- Fury is not in Him, Isa. 27:4. Nor did He come suddenly upon them; but they heard Him and His voice at some distance, giving them notice of His coming, and it could have possibly been that still small voice.
- Forth, they hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God --- what a sad change!
- Before they had sinned, when they heard the voice of the Lord God coming towards them, they would have probably run to meet Him, and with a humble joy welcomed his gracious visits.
- But, now things had drastically changed, God had become a terror to them, and no doubt they had become a terror to themselves as well.
- Lastly, their own consciences accused them, and set their sin before them in its proper perspective.
- Their fig-leaves failed them, and would not help.
- In their fright they hid themselves among the trees.
- Knowing themselves guilty, they didn't want to face the Judge, so they fled from God and His justice.

**(+2 min)**

4. Genesis 3:8 tells us a lot about the relationship they had with God. What are some things they lost after their sin?

- These are some of the things they lost:
- 1) They walked with God; 2) they talked with Him; 3) He came in their presence; 4) He sought them when they hid; 5) They must have spent time communing together. 6) Paradise was lost!

**(+2 min)**

**Application 4:** Where are you in the garden? Are you hiding from God? If so, will you pray for Him to open your heart to Him and accept His Son as your Lord and Savior? If you are just hiding because of some sin, will you pray right now for Him to forgive you of that sin and free you from its bondage?

**(+1 min)**

**Day 5: God's questions and man's excuses. – Read Genesis 3:9-13**

1. What four questions did God ask Adam and Eve? Do you think God knew the answers to these questions without asking them? If so, why do you think He asked them?

- *This is a three part question, be sure to get answers to all three parts.*
- Part 1: 1) Where are you? 2) Who told you that you were naked? 3) Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from? 4) What is this you have done?
- Part 2: Yes because He is omniscient (Isaiah 40:14)
- Part 3: Maybe to cause them to admit their guilt? To let them see how, now that they had knowledge of good and evil, they would turn on one another, blame each other the way we do today.

**(+2 min)**

2. What resulted from Adam and Eve's sin (see Isaiah 59:2; Hebrews 2:14-15)?

**Isaiah 59:2** - *"But your iniquities have separate you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear."*

**Hebrews 2:14-15** - "*Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*"

- Their sin brought them a sense of insecurity because of their new found knowledge and bondage to Satan.

**(+2 min)**

3. "Passing the buck" isn't new, write down the sequence Adam and Eve used these verses Genesis 3:12-13:

- 1) Adam blamed God "*The woman you gave me... she gave me some fruit from the tree and I ate*"; 2) Eve blamed the serpent, "*the serpent deceived (a new word in their vocabulary) me and I ate*"

**(+1 min)**

4. You have studied Genesis 3:1-13 this week. Why do you think it is such an important part of Christian theology?

- Answers will vary.
- Some highlights you might be interested in for this question:
- The serpent told them that eating from the tree will make them "like God." Here's the first problem with that statement: remember the end of Genesis 1? The man and woman are created how? In the image of God. They are already like God in the important sense.
- So the temptation offered by the serpent is layered. It is a denial of the goodness of God's creation (the serpent suggests they are lacking in their nature). It is an unhealthy and selfish desire for more than what God has provided. It is a denial of their central task to act as God's image. In actuality, it is a desire not to be just *like* God, but to *be* God. This can be called idolatry or the denial of God's authority, or prideful lust. Whatever you want to call it, it is rebellion against God to the extreme
- Following the act, the man and the woman are now naked and feel they must hide their nakedness. This is in stark contrast to the end of Genesis 2: "*The man and the woman were naked and felt no shame.*" Before they can begin the act of repentance, they must expose their nakedness before God. They are aware that appearing before God he will see everything about them, and so they attempt to flee God. This is the opposite of repentance. And their nakedness can only be adequately covered once they own up to their sin before God.
- The fact that things are not worse, however, is God's act of mercy. Even in the midst of our sin, as we are being punished, God stays his hand. God continues to sustain, and rather than wiping out these relationships completely, He allows us to retain a measure of their joy. This is to be instructive to us, to remind us of the dangers of our sin (through the strife) and the joys that come from God. They are intermixed to help train us.
- Even God's guardian over the tree of life (later in Genesis 3) is not meant as a punishment, but as a saving grace. We are now in a sinful state, slowly killing ourselves by our sin. If God allowed us to eat from the tree of life as we presently are, it would not be wonderful, but horrific. We would continue to live forever as we also continue to die. A continual process of dying without ever actually completing the process is not paradise, it is hell.
- We need to realize that God is the only one who can transform our being, from our sinful core, out..
- Only once we are transformed can we enjoy the tree of life. Only then can we be saved.
- **One last critical point is that the first Adam, representing all people, failed and brought death upon all.**

- Referring to Romans 5:12-19, Paul reminds us that we all inherit Adam's sin and that is why we all need the gospel!

(+5 min)

**Application 5:** What will you share about the importance of Genesis 1-3? List some of the things you have learned so far that you could share:

(+1 min)

### Closing Comments

- What have we covered in this short time together with only these few verses?
- 1) We saw the process Eve and Adam and ourselves go through to sin.
- 2) Temptation is where we must make the right decision. Note, being tempted or temptation in general isn't a sin, it's what we do with the temptation. Even Jesus was tempted!
- 3) At the instant we decide to follow the temptation the sin is committed. That is because at that time our heart is in conflict with God.
- 4) Our sin devastates our relationship with God until we confess and repent of it.
- 5) Our excuses work on people but they won't hold up under Christ's judgment.
- So we should have some tools to take to heart from this lesson to help us avoid falling into the traps which *appear* so good and yet the Holy Spirit is warning us in the back of our minds to not do it.
- That is one of His responsibilities but we can quench His still small voice. We can override it and we often do.
- If you are a believer, then listen to His voice when making your choices. He won't lead you astray.

(+2 min)

### Closing Prayer

(+1 min)

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. James Boice, "Genesis Volume 1 – Creation and Fall – Genesis 1-11," Baker Books, 2002, ISBN 0-8010-1161-2, pg. 167

<sup>2</sup> Matthew Henry, "Matthew Henry's Commentary [unabridged]," Bible Explorer Deluxe, version 2.08, 1999, Genesis 3:7