



In the beginning God.... Leaders Guide Week 8

(Times are approximate) – start time: _____

Welcome

(+5 min)

Opening prayer

(+1 min)

Opening Comments

- This week's passage is only two verses but they are tremendously important.
- We see the very first indication of the gospel message in these verses, "*I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring (seed) and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.*"
- God cursed the serpent, but He did not curse Adam and Eve.
- In verse 15, God declared war on Satan and gave the first promise of the Redeemer.
- Satan would strike Christ's heel, but Christ would crush Satan's head and defeat him (John 12:31; Col. 2:15).
- Jesus Christ is "the last Adam" (1 Cor. 15:45-49).
- The first Adam's disobedience plunged us all into sin, but the Last Adam's obedience brought redemption to all who would believe on Him.
- God tests us to bring out the best in us, but Satan tempts us to bring out the worst in us.
- Satan "baits the hook" with what seems good, and we take the bait and end up doing something bad.
- Eph. 6:10-18 says that we can overcome the tempter by having faith and putting on the armor God provides, by using the Word of God, by praying, by trusting God for the way of escape, and be depending on the power of the Holy Spirit working in believers lives.
- Let's take a look at our home study and what we have learned about these verses.

(+2 min)

Discussion of the Study Lesson – (~49 min) – Weekly theme: Redemption

Day 1: Overview – Read Genesis 3:14-15

1. List some of the things the serpent did in Genesis 3:1-13:

- He set out to deceive Eve by asking a question about God – 3:1
- He misquoted what God had said – 3:1
- Again he deceived Eve by his questioning if God would really allow them to die – 3:4
- He made it sound to Eve as though she could be like God, *knowing good and evil* if she ate the fruit – 3:4
- So he deceived, lied, and misquoted God.
- Things we need to be aware of in our daily lives – deception, lying, and misquoting what God says.

- Another reason to be in the Scriptures every day, honing our understanding of God, His ways, and what He expects of us.

(+<n> min)

2. Write the definitions for “curse, cursed”:

- **Webster’s – curse:** a prayer or invocation for harm or injury to come upon one; evil or misfortune that comes as if in response to imprecation or as retribution; **cursed:** being under or deserving a curse.
- **Nelson’s – curse, (cursed not in Nelson’s):** a prayer for injury, harm, or misfortune to befall someone. Noah, for instance, pronounced a curse on Canaan (Gen. 9:25). In Bible times, a curse was considered to be more than a mere wish that evil would befall one’s enemies; it was believed to possess the power to bring about the evil the curse spoke. The apostle Paul spoke of the law as a *curse* upon everyone.
- By the grace of God, however, “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (Gal. 22:3).

(+<n> min)

3. Write the definition for “enmity”:

- **Webster’s – enmity:** positive, active, and typically mutual hatred or ill will.
- **Nelson’s – enmity:** deep-seated animosity or hatred. The apostle Paul declared that the human mind in its natural state has a natural “enmity against God” (Rom. 8:7 “*The sinful mind is hostile to God*”). The enmity can be changed only through the redemptive power of Christ.
- Answers will vary and there are other dictionaries besides these two.

(+<n> min)

4. What does Genesis 3:14 tell you about the serpent, God, and sin?

- *This is a multi part question, be sure to get answers for all parts serpent, God, and sin.*
- **Serpent:** Since we just defined “enmity” it is evident the serpent had “enmity” against God and very likely Adam and Eve (just a thought).
- The serpent is not sovereign, omnipotent, omnipresent, or omniscient.
- It will travel in the lowest form of all the creatures, on its belly. If it did walk upright or partially upright, it will no longer.
- It will “eat dust all the days of its life” - is an expression that elsewhere carries the meaning of “total defeat” – read verses around **Isa 65:25**, “*The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, but dust will be the serpent’s food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, “says the LORD”* ; and **Mic 7:17**, “*They will lick dust like a snake, like creatures that crawl on the ground. They will come trembling out of their dens; they will turn in fear to the LORD our God and will be afraid of you.*”)
- **God:** He is holy, true, and righteous, He cannot tolerate sin of any form.
- He has all the attributes that were missing with the serpent plus many more.
- God is just and therefore, He was not able to overlook what the serpent had done nor what Adam and Eve had done.
- People often say they want *justice* but if God gave us *justice* before exercising His grace and mercy, we would die!

- **Sin: *If time permits***, select people as they come in to lookup these passages and be ready to read them if time permits. You should be able to get through some: Deuteronomy 5:8-10; 23:21; Job 2:9-10; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 8:3-4
- **Deuteronomy 5:8-10** – *“You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁹ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ¹⁰ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments”*
- God is a jealous God and deplores/hates sin – there are consequences of it according to this passage, which are passed on to other generations – we see this in our world if we think about it – in today’s terms, we would call it collateral damage. Still it is the result of someone’s sinning that causes other grief.
- **Deuteronomy 23:21** – *“If you make a vow to the LORD your God, do not be slow to pay it, for the LORD your God will certainly demand it of you and you will be guilty of sin”*
- This is a very important verse if we take it seriously. Don’t make vows to the Lord you don’t plan on keeping! This would be a good verse to recite at a wedding.
- **Job 2:9-10** – *“His wife said to him, “Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!” He replied, “You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?” In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.”*
- Here is a case where Job understood God and his wife didn’t. God is aware of these situations in our lives and in Job’s case, God did not see Job’s response as a sin. Doesn’t say what He thought of Job’s wife’s statement? Bottom line is that God distinguished between what is and is not sin. If we are to have the same knowledge, we must study His Word!
- **2 Corinthians 5:21** – *“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”*
- Praise God again for He knew there was nothing we could do to avoid the sentence He placed on Adam and Eve. So He sacrificed His own Son! I doubt many people today would sacrifice their son to save someone who hated them! He did!
- **Romans 8:3-4** – *“For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit”*
- The bottom line is that God hates sin and praise Him that in Genesis 3:15, He initiated a plan to redeem His people and all who believe upon His Son our Lord Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord for He is Holy, Holy, Holy!

(+<n> min)

5. Where do you find the beginning of the gospel message in these verses Genesis 3:14-15? Explain.

- In 3:15, *“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring/seed and hers”*
- God has declared He has a plan for man’s deliverance that will crush (3:15) Satan’s/serpents head even though he/it will strike the heel of man.
- Answers will vary.

(+<n> min)

Application 1: What one thought have you just learned that you will apply to your activities today?

Day 2: The arraignment, examination, verdict, and sentence. – Read Genesis 3:9-13

1. **The arraignment:** 1) What are the first words spoken by God after Adam and Eve fall into sin? 2) What were Adam and Eve doing when God called them? God (Judge) is now on the bench and has called them. 3) What did they do when He called to them? 4) What does Revelation 20:12-13 tell us today?

- *This is a multi part question, be sure to get answers for all parts.*
- 1) “Where are you” (3:9);
- 2) They were hiding (3:8) in the trees;
- 3) They came forward just as all people will do when God calls (be it for good or bad we cannot resist);
- **Revelation 20:12-13** – *“And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done”*
- 4) God’s judgment – there is no escape from God’s call for judgment!

(+<n> min)

2. **The examination:** 1) What questions did God ask Adam and Eve? 2) Why do you think God asked the questions He did? 3) Do you think Adam and Eve confessed their sin? 4) What do these verses say about confessing our sins? Leviticus 26:40, 42; Psalm 32:5; 1 John 1:9. (extra Matthew 7:13-14)

- *This is a multi part question, be sure to get answers for all parts.*
- 1) Verses 3:11 & 13; to bring Adam and Eve to the point of personal confession for the sin they had committed.
- 2) It was not to inform God, He knew what they had done, but rather it was to humble Adam and Eve as they stood before Him.
- 3) Verses 3:12, 13 – No!
- That is what lawyers call “*confession and avoidance*” – they admitted eating the fruit, which they could not deny, **but** they also pleaded extenuating circumstances by blaming someone else. This is seen in our courtrooms today. Most of us have done this too!
- True confession would have gone like this: “*Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?*” and Adam and Eve would responded, “Yes”--- period!
- **Leviticus 26:40, 42** – “*“ But if they will confess their sins and the sins of their fathers--their treachery against me and their hostility toward me... ⁴²I will remember my covenant with Jacob and my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land.”*
- **Psalm 32:5** – “*Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD”-- and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah “*
- **1 John 1:9** – “*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*”
- **Matthew 7:13-14** – “*“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it”*
- 4) Verses say if we confess our sins, God will forgive us and reinstate our relationship with Him.

(+<n> min)

3. **The verdict:** Even though God doesn't speak the verdict, it is obvious by what Adam and Eve said in 3:12 & 13 --- What did they say? What are some of the steps we must take to return to God when we've sinned?

- *This is a two part question, be sure to get answers for both parts.*
- **Part 1:** 3:12 – both of them said “I ate”
- **Part 2:** Some steps are:
 - 1) Accept responsibility;
 - 2) Respond trustfully to God's call;
 - 3) Come into His presence (prayer);
 - 4) Cease trying to cover ourselves but rather take Christ's robe of righteousness upon ourselves; experience His peace!

(+<n> min)

4. To keep things in perspective, read Paul's words in Romans 3:10-12 and tell what they say to you? Will there be any excuses in the day of God's final judgment (see Romans 1:18-20 and Romans 3:19-20)?

- *This is a two part question, be sure to get answers to both parts.*
- **Romans 3:10-12** – “As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.”
- **Romans 1:18-20** – “The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse”
- **Romans 3:19-20** – “Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. ²⁰ Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin”
- **Part 1:** Answers will vary.
- **Part 2:** No one is without sin, no one righteous, not one!
- Those who live under the law (unbelievers by default) will have no excuse!

(+<n> min)

Application 2: Is there a persistent sin in your life that you need to bring to the Lord? Will you do that today? If you don't have a persistent sin, how will you avoid acquiring one? Name one thing you need to repent of and then do it in silent prayer to the One who offers His robe of righteousness.

(+<n> min)

Day 3: God passes sentence on the serpent. – Read Genesis 3:14

1. What was the curse God placed on the serpent? How was the serpent described in 3:1? Was the serpent going to live for eternity?

- *This is a multi-part question, be sure to get answers for all parts.*
- **Part 1:** The serpent would become lower than all livestock and wild animals.

- **Part 2:** It was described as “*more crafty than any of the wild animals*”
- **Part 3:** The passage seems to indicate it will not because of the words “*all the days of your life*” (3:14).
- This curse does not necessarily suggest that the serpent had previously walked with feet and legs as the other land animals did/do.
- A primary point is that for the rest of the serpent’s life, as a result of the curse, when it crawls on its belly, it will “*eat dust.*”
- The curse of the serpent, then, as a result of its part in the Fall, is to be the perennial reminder of the ultimate defeat of the rebellious “*seed.*” (Genesis 3:15)
- So strongly was this imagery of the serpent's defeat felt by later biblical writers that in their description of the ultimate victory and reign of the *righteous* “*seed,*” when peace and harmony are restored to creation, the serpent remains under the curse: “*dust will [still] be the serpent's food*” (Isa 65:25)

(+<n> min)

2. Many people believe that being “cursed” is just an Old Testament issue. What do you learn from these passages Mark 11:12-14, 21; 1 Corinthians 12:3; Galatians 3:10-14?

- **Mark 11:12-14, 21** – “*The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. ¹³ Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴ Then he said to the tree, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again.” And his disciples heard him say it” and “Peter remembered and said to Jesus, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!”*”
- Jesus had cursed the fig tree because it had no fruit on it. There are many views of this particular event but that is for another study sometime.
- **1 Corinthians 12:3** – “*Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.*”
- Only those who do not believe can say that Jesus is cursed. And we often hear people curse in Jesus’ name!
- It is interesting that no one can truly claim Jesus as Lord without the Holy Spirit.
- **Galatians 3:10-14** – “*All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.” ¹¹ Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, “The righteous will live by faith.” ¹² The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, “The man who does these things will live by them.” ¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” ¹⁴ He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit”*
- This verse clearly demonstrates that in Jesus’ day people fully understood what a “curse” was about.
- (+<n> min)

3. What do you think is the significance of the serpent being made to crawl on the ground and to eat dust?

- Answers for this will vary. It is an opinion question.
- **Some thoughts:** Men and women will forever look upon such creatures as being venomous, noxious, and will have a proper hatred and disgust towards them.
- To eat dust is to know defeat, and that is God’s prophetic judgment on this enemy.
- He will always reach for his desires and fall short of them. He will always fail.

(+<n> min)

4. What have you learned about God and His view of sin? How do these verses help Exodus 20:4-6; Micah 7:18; Romans 5:16-17; 2 Corinthians 5:21?

- Answers will vary.
- **Exodus 20:4-6** – *“You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.”*
- He is a God who abhors sin and yet is willing to forgive when we turn to Him.
- **Micah 7:18** – *“Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy”*
- Again He is willing to pardon our sins when we repent.
- **Romans 5:16-17** – *“Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ”*
- God's plan, Christ's sacrifice, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit are all in harmony when one accepts Jesus Christ as his/her Savior.
- **2 Corinthians 5:21** – *“God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”*
- God hates sin and yet He had allowed His own Son to be *made sin for us!*

(+<n> min)

Application 3: Even though we truly want to avoid sin we seem to fail, so how are you prepared to handle your next temptation? How are you prepared to handle someone like the serpent who looks and sounds good but in reality is evil through and through?

(+<n> min)

Day 4: The need for a Redeemer is known by God. – Read Genesis 3:15

1. Write the definitions for redeem, redeemer, and redemption:

- **Webster's:** redeem – to buy back; to get or win back; to free from captivity by payment of ransom; redeemer – person who redeems; redemption – the act, process, or an instance of redeeming.
- **Nelson's:** redeem/redemption – deliverance by payment of a price. In the New Testament, redemption refers to salvation from sin, death, and the wrath of God by Christ's sacrifice. In the Old Testament, the word redemption refers to redemption by a KINSMAN (Lev. 25:24; Ruth 4:6; Jer. 32:7-8), rescue or deliverance (Num. 3:49), and ransom (Ps. 119:9; 130:7). Redeemer – one who frees or delivers another from difficulty, danger, or bondage, usually by the payment of a ransom price. In the Old Testament the redeemer could function in several ways. He could buy back property sold under duress. In the New Testament redemption was applied to property, animals, persons, and the nation of Israel as a whole. The New Testament emphasizes the tremendous cost of redemption: “the precious blood of Christ, (1 Peter 1:19; Eph. 1:7)” which is also called an atoning sacrifice, “a propitiation by His blood” (Rom. 3:25).

(+<n> min)

2. Summarize the meaning of each word “Redeem” and “Redeemer” for both the Old and New Testament using the following passages (*select at least one passage for each word below*):

Old Testament Redeem (Leviticus 25:25-27; Ruth 3:11-13; Psalm 31:5):

New Testament Redeem (Luke 24:19-21; Galatians 4:4-5; Titus 2:13-14):

Old Testament Redeemer (Psalm 19:14; Isaiah 44:6; Jeremiah 50:33-34):

New Testament Redeemer (Mark 10:45; Ephesians 1:7-8; 1 Peter 1:18-19):

- Answers will vary but try to get a response for each reference.
- **OT Redeem – Leviticus 25:25-27** – *“If one of your countrymen becomes poor and sells some of his property, his nearest relative is to come and redeem what his countryman has sold.²⁶ If, however, a man has no one to redeem it for him but he himself prospers and acquires sufficient means to redeem it,²⁷ he is to determine the value for the years since he sold it and refund the balance to the man to whom he sold it; he can then go back to his own property.”*
- This is talking about redeeming (buying back) land.
- **Ruth 3:11-13** – *“And now, my daughter, don't be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All my fellow townsmen know that you are a woman of noble character.¹² Although it is true that I am near of kin, there is a kinsman-redeemer nearer than I.¹³ Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to redeem, good; let him redeem. But if he is not willing, as surely as the LORD lives I will do it. Lie here until morning”*
- This is talking about redeeming (buying back) a person - Ruth
- **Psalm 31:5** – *“Into your hands I commit my spirit; redeem me, O LORD, the God of truth”*

- **NT Redeem – Luke 24:19-21** – *““What things?” he asked. “About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people.²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him;²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to **redeem** Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place”*
- They were looking for the redeemer of Israel – He was but they couldn't see that!
- **Galatians 4:4-5** – *“But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law,⁵ to **redeem** those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons”*
- Christ bought us back so we were no longer under the law!
- **Titus 2:13-14** – *“while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,¹⁴ who gave himself for us to **redeem** us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good”*
- Christ **gave Himself to redeem us** – Praise the Lord!

- **OT Redeemer - Psalm 19:14** – *“May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my **Redeemer**.”*
- **Isaiah 44:6** – *““This is what the LORD says-- Israel's King and **Redeemer**, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God.”*

- **Jeremiah 50:33-34** – “This is what the LORD Almighty says: “The people of Israel are oppressed, and the people of Judah as well. All their captors hold them fast, refusing to let them go. Yet their **Redeemer** is strong; the LORD Almighty is his name. He will vigorously defend their cause so that he may bring rest to their land, but unrest to those who live in Babylon”
- The Lord God is the Redeemer.
- **NT Redeemer - Mark 10:45** – “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as **a ransom for many** (implied Redeemer/ransom)”
- **Ephesians 1:7-8** – “In him we have **redemption** through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.”
- **1 Peter 1:18-19** – “For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were **redeemed** from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect”
- Our redemption was very costly!
(+<n> min)

3. Divide Genesis 3:15 into three parts and relate each to one of the following:

- a. The history of mankind (3:15a) –
- b. God's seed and the devil's seed (3:15b) –
- c. The birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (3:15c) –

- This is a three part question, be sure to get answers for all three parts.
- Answers will vary.
- **Part 1: Genesis 3:15a** – “ I will put enmity between you and the woman”
- There will be conflict (enmity) between the serpent/Satan and the world and God's people – we see it around the world today.
- There are still believers being put to death for their faith in parts of the world.
- **Part 2: Genesis 3:15b** – “and between your offspring(seed) and hers;”
- These two will always be in conflict until the Day of Redemption.
- **Part 3: Genesis 3:15c** – “he will crush (strike) your head, and you will strike his heel.”
- Again words from Adam Clark, “there is a deeper meaning in the text, especially in these words, (KJV) “it shall bruise thy head (*he will crush your head*).” The seed of the woman; the person (*Christ*) is to come by the woman, and by her alone, without the concurrence of man.
- Therefore the address is not to Adam and Eve, but to Eve alone; and **it was in consequence of this purpose of God that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin; this, and this alone, is what is implied in the promise of the seed of the woman bruising the head of the serpent.** <<< this is fundamental theology!
- Jesus Christ died to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself, and to destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.
- Thus he bruises his head - destroys his power and lordship over mankind, turning them from the power of Satan unto God;” (see footnote reference 1)

(+<n> min)

4. Try to capture, in one or two sentences, what Paul says happened as a result of Adam's disobedience to God: Romans 5:12-19 and 1 Corinthians 15:22. Does God pass judgment on every person because of Adam's sin? Explain.

- **Romans 5:12-19** – *“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned--¹³ for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law.¹⁴ Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come. But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!”*
 - **1 Corinthians 15:22** – *“For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive”*
 - Answers will vary. Try to get at least a couple of responses.
- (+<n> min)

Application 4: Because of Adam’s disobedience, everyone is born as a sinner. No exceptions. How would you explain this fact to someone who is an unbeliever (preparing do such things is a must for your witness)?

(+<n> min)

Day 5: Mercy and hope in the midst of tragedy. – Read Genesis 3:15 (note: this day’s lesson may take two study periods – it is long but very rich in Scripture and foundational theologically -- very important!)

1. What does it mean that enmity will be between the serpent’s seed and her seed (see John 8:42-45 for an example)? Do you see the beginning of the gospel message here? Explain
 - *This is a two part question, be sure to get answers for both parts.*
 - **John 8:42-45** – *“Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me.⁴³ Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say.⁴⁴ You belong to your father, 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.⁴⁵ Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!”*
 - **Part 1:** This is a bit more involved. Satan and his demons don’t have offspring so we must decide what this might be saying.
 - **James Boice** says, “in view of these facts (Satan/demons don’t have offspring), the verse probably refers to the godly descendants of the man and woman, influenced by God Himself, and the ungodly descendants of the man and woman, influenced by Satan.”¹
 - **Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown** say, “**I will put enmity between thee and the woman** -- God can only be said to do so by leaving "the serpent and his seed to the influence of their own corruption; and by those measures which, pursued for the salvation of men, fill Satan and his angels with envy and rage.”²
 - **Wesley** says, “**1.** A perpetual reproach is fastened upon him (the serpent).
2. A perpetual quarrel is here commenced between the kingdom of God, and the kingdom of the devil among men; war proclaimed between the seed of the woman, and the seed of the serpent, (Revelation 12:7). It is the fruit of this enmity.
3. A gracious promise is here made of Christ as the deliverer of fallen man from the power of Satan. By faith in this promise, our first parents, and the patriarchs before the flood, were justified and saved; and to this promise, and the benefit of it, instantly serving God day and night they hoped to come.”³
 - **Part 2:** There is always something unexpected about Christmas, even when you have been expecting it for months.

- It's not just the presents but it is the truth that God, by His grace, sent His Son our Lord and Savior as a baby.
- God often does the unexpected as you have probably experienced yourself.
- But in this verse something totally unexpected is seen.
- In the midst of God passing sentence on Adam and Eve for their sin, He provides a glimmer of hope through His plan to ultimately reconcile people back to Himself.
- And think about this, He did this in the presence of one of Satan's workers! What a God!

(+<n> min)

2. This being God's first inference to a gospel message (3:15). Look up [*at least the highlighted*] each Old Testament prophecy and its corresponding fulfillment in the New Testament, and state the subject of the prophecy: 1) [Gen. 12:3 & Matt. 1:1], **2) [Micah 5:2 & Luke 2:4, 5,7]**, **3) [Dan. 9:25-26 & Luke 2:1-2]**, 4) [Isa. 7:14 & Luke 1:26-27, 30-31], 5) [Ps. 2:7 & Matt. 3:17], 6) [Isa. 53:3 & John 1:11, Luke 23:18], 7) [Zech. 9:9 & Mark 11:7-11], **8) [Zech. 11:12 & Matt. 26:14-15]**, 9) [Ps. 41:9 & Luke 22:47], 10) [Isa. 53:5 & Rom. 5:6-8], **11) [Zech. 12:10 & John 19:34]**, 12) [Ps. 68:18 & Mark 16:19, 1 Cor. 15:4, Eph. 4:8]

- Answers should be fairly close. This question has a lot of scripture references. Be careful of your time. It may be good to just hear about a few. You may just want to share the probability information?
- The subject for each prophecy is: 1) Christ would be a descendent of Abraham; **2) Would be born in Bethlehem;** **3) The time for His birth;** 4) To be born of a virgin; 5) He is declared the Son of God; 6) He would be rejected by His own people the Jews; 7) His triumphal entry into Jerusalem; **8) He would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver;** 9) He would be betrayed by a close friend; 10) His would be a vicarious sacrifice; **11) He would be pierced through the hands and feet;** 12) His ascension to God's right hand.
- Here are 12 prophecies that show a progression through Jesus' life.
- There are many more prophecies pertaining to Jesus, many Christian websites like the number 300.
- A reasonable question would be "What are the chances of these prophecies being fulfilled by accident?"
- Let's look at some from a statistical perspective:
- **3) [Dan. 9:25-26 & Luke 2:1-2]** – predicted about 500 years before fulfillment - probability of chance fulfillment – 1 in 10^3
- **2) [Micah 5:2 & Luke 2:4, 5,7]** – predicted about 700 years before fulfillment – probability of chance fulfillment – 1 in 10^5
- **8) [Zech. 11:12 & Matt. 26:14-15]** – predicted about 500 years before fulfillment – probability of chance fulfillment – 1 in 10^{11}
- **11) Zech. 12:10 & John 19:34]** – predicted about 400 years before fulfillment – probability of chance fulfillment – 1 in 10^{13}
- So with just these four prophecies, the probability of all four being fulfilled by chance is 1 in 10^{32}
- That would be a 1 with 32 zeros after it of being a chance fulfillment!
- God is sovereign, He spoke through the prophets these truths, and then saw that they were fulfilled by His Son.
- Knowing God as we do from studying Genesis for 7 weeks, this should not be a surprise to us.

(+<n> min)

3. How did the devil strike Jesus' heel in each of these scriptural references (**look up at least 3 passages** and you can add more if you want) Matthew 9:34, 13:37-39; Mark 3:22; Luke 11:18; Matthew 4:1-11?

- Answers will vary.
- **Matthew 9:34** – *“But the Pharisees said, “It is by the prince of demons that he drives out demons.”*
- **Matthew 13:37-39** – *“He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels”*
- **Mark 3:22** – *“And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, “He is possessed by Beelzebub! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons.””*
- **Luke 11:18** – *“If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebub”*
- **Matthew 4:1-11** – (this is where Satan came to Jesus and tempted Him in the wilderness - too long to add here so mark it in your Bible if you need to)
- In all these verses, we see the effects of Satan working against Jesus through a variety of people and in the last reference, he directly approached Jesus!

(+<n> min)

4. Describe how Jesus Christ crushed Satan and his demons in each of these scriptural references (**look up at least 3 passages** and you can add more if you want) Matthew 4:1-11, 8:16-17; Luke 4:33-35; Luke 8:27-33, 13:10-16; John 19:16-30.

- **Matthew 4:1-11** – This is the same reference as above but this time look at it from Jesus’ point of view and how Jesus crushed Satan using Scripture!
- **Matthew 8:16-17** – *“When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. ¹⁷ This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases.””*
- These infirmities are all part of the fall of Adam and Eve and when Jesus heals them, it is a form of crushing Satan’s head.
- **Luke 4:33-35** – *“In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an evil spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, ³⁴ “Ha! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are--the Holy One of God!” ³⁵ “Be quiet!” Jesus said sternly. “Come out of him!” Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him”*
- Jesus rids a man of a demon – Satan’s helper – again this is a form of crushing Satan’s head.
- **Luke 13:10-16** – *“On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, ¹¹ and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, “Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.” ¹³ Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God. ¹⁴ Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue ruler said to the people, “There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath.” ¹⁵ The Lord answered him, “You hypocrites! Doesn’t each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? ¹⁶ Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?””*
- In this passage we can see the influence Satan and his demons have had on the church of Israel over the centuries. Out of the laws found in the Pentateuch, by this time they had over 500 laws for those laws! Sound familiar?

- **John 19:16-30** – again, too many verses to print here but, these words about Jesus are most important!... *“When he had received the drink, Jesus said, **“It is finished.”** With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”*
- It is fun to speculate how Satan viewed this point in time. Did he think he had won over God? Did he think he had won a victory?
- At this point, God had provided a way to reconcile His people, who are natural sinners, back to Himself through the blood of His Son Jesus Christ! What a God!

(+<n> min)

Application 5: What have you learned today that gives you encouragement for the future? Who might you know that needs to have that encouragement shared with them?

(+<n> min)

Closing Comments

- Ask if there are any questions anyone wants to discuss more.
- If not, encourage your group to continue in the study and to do it on a daily bases, not all at one sitting.
- You might ask people in your group how they find time to do the study, when they do it, and how well their discipline has grown through this study.

(+4 min)

Closing Prayer

(+1 min)

¹ Dr. James Montgomery Boice, “Genesis Volume 1 Creation and Fall Genesis 1-11,” Baker Publishing, 1998, ISBN 0-8010-1161-2

² Bible Explorer, “Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary,” Epiphany Software, Version 2.08 Deluxe, 1999

³ Bible Explorer, “Wesley’ Commentary,” Epiphany Software, Version 2.08 Deluxe, 1999