

The Gospel Project



DailyLife
Five Oaks Church

Week 3: September 24–30, 2016

Day 1

September 26



Pray | Ask God to help you find freedom in his obedience to him.

GOD WANTS US TO trust his heart and the goodness of His Word, the Bible.

In the previous chapter of Genesis, God had only one prohibition for Adam and Eve, and that was to not eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. In today's reading we will see how Adam and Eve broke that one rule. God didn't elaborate on the details of the consequences for disobeying; he just gave a simple warning of death. Maybe Adam and Eve would have chosen differently had had they truly understood the extreme consequences, including suffering, separation from God, chaos, and death. But would they have been obeying with love and trust for God, or would they have obeyed out of fear? God wanted their obedience to be rooted in faith in him, not in weighing risks, or in their wisdom and logic.



Read | Genesis 3:1–6



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following for reflection.

Sometimes we think that freedom is being able to do everything that we want, but true freedom comes with obedience to God. The restrictions that God gives us are for our good. Reflect on a time when you have wanted “freedom” and gone after Satan’s temptations instead of being obedient to God. What were the consequences?

Reflect on a rule that you struggle to obey, whether at work, school, or in your community. What motivates you to obey or disobey the rule? Satan tried to make Eve believe that sin is good, pleasant, and desirable. We often choose wrongdoing because we believe the things we are choosing or choosing to do are good. Where in your life is “the serpent” speaking to you? How does God’s Word help you with fighting these temptations?

Day 2

September 27



Pray / Ask God to help you have full trust in him and his Word.

HUMAN REBELLION LEADS US to distrust the goodness of God's Word. The serpent tempted Eve by getting her to doubt the goodness of God. He brought into the conversation questions for debate and twisted God's words. The serpent magnified the one rule and ignored all of the freedom that God had given to Adam and Eve. Our sins do not always appear as bad to us. The "pleasant" sins are the hardest to avoid.

The distrust and denial of God's Word is the same lie that slithers into our hearts today. It leads us to dismiss the words and commands of God as optional and not as truth. Adam and Eve's disobedience was not merely a mistake, but a rebellion against God.



Read / Genesis 3:1-7



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following for reflection.

Our rebellion against God begins with distrusting what he has said. People often twist God's words in the Bible to justify their sinful actions. What are some ways that you have distorted God's Word?

How is your relationship with God affected when you see him more for his prohibitions than for the freedom he offers?

How does today's passage impact your perspective: Do you view your sins as a simple mistake and a failure or as acts of rebellion against God?

Day 3

September 28



Pray / Confess your sins to God.

HUMAN REBELLION RUPTURES our relationships with God and others. Before Adam and Eve sinned, they felt no shame, they had nothing to hide, and they were able to be comfortably vulnerable before God and each other. After their sin, Adam and Eve felt guilt and tried to cover themselves with fig leaves to cover their shame, and they also hid from God when they heard him approaching. Hiding from God and hiding from each other is the everyday exercise of humanity. It is a sign of our guilt and that our relationship with God has been ruptured.

Today's passage is a representation of our broken relationship with God and each other. But there is hope; God issues judgment for our sins yet forgives us and loves us unconditionally.



Read / Genesis 3:8–15



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following for reflection.

Adam and Eve tried to cover up their shame with fig leaves. What are some ways you try to hide from God, things you do to cover our shame?

When God confronted Adam about his sin, Adam blamed Eve for his actions. Eve then tried to place blame on the serpent. Reflect on time when you have tried to place blame for your sins on someone else. How did this blame affect your relationship with others and with God?

Verse 15 is a foreshadowing of Satan's defeat when God sent Jesus to die for our sins. Spend some time reflecting on the fact that God sent his only son to save us from our sins and give us everlasting life.

Day 4
September 29



Pray / Thank God for the grace that he shows you daily.

HUMAN REBELLION AND SIN result in the shattering of God's good world. When Adam and Eve sinned, God dealt with their sin with punishment for both man and woman. As we continue to sin today, our sins still affect others, and often God still allows us to suffer consequences of sin. Sometimes these consequences are directly related to our specific sin, and sometimes we experience the consequences of sins of others by simply living in a fallen world. Although God allows us to suffer consequences, he loves us so much that he gives us grace and sent Jesus to save us from the ultimate consequence of our sins: death.



Read / Genesis 3:16–19



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following for reflection.

When Adam and Eve sinned, it affected every single human in all of the future generations. Reflect on the effect of the fall of humanity that you see in our world today. How does the promise of Jesus' return give you hope for these circumstances?

In verse 17, God scolds Adam for listening to his wife and not following God's rule. Reflect on a time that you ended up in trouble because you ignored God and listened to the voice of someone else. How would the results have been different if you had been obedient to God?

Reflect on how sin affects our families, government, church, and environment. What are some ways that Christians can fight the effects of sin and show God's goodness and love?

Day 5

September 30



Pray / Ask God to help you become more obedient to him.

CHOOSING TO SIN and separating ourselves from God is a choice that leads to chaos and death, our punishment for rebelling against God. Today's passage ends with the reality of exile. Because of sin, Adam and Eve were banished from paradise, separating themselves from God and eternal life. Before God sent Adam and Eve out into the world, he clothed them with animal skin to cover their nakedness. This action of love points forward to Jesus, who was sacrificed to take away the guilt of our sin and cover our shame with his righteousness. One day Jesus will return and restore this broken world. Until then, Christians are called to trust God's Word, fight against sin, and be witnesses to God's love.



Read / Genesis 3:20–24



Reflect | Choose one or more of the following for reflection.

Based on the readings from this week, how will you respond if asked the question, “What is sin, and what are its consequences?”

Reflect on one sin that you struggle with the most. How is this sin affecting your relationship with God and other at this moment?

Reflect on ways you can fight against sin. What changes are you going to make today to help you become God’s light in this broken world?

Portions of this study were adapted from The Gospel Project Chronological: The Story Begins, Vol. 1, Adult Personal Study Guide ESV (Nashville, TN: LifeWay Christian Resources, 2015). Used by permission.

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