

Session 2: Fall

Scripture questions:

Genesis 3:1-7

How does the serpent challenge Eve's perception of God? How does the serpent tempt Adam and Eve?

How do the actions of the serpent help us understand the characteristics of sin?

Genesis 3:8-24

What happens when God enters the Garden of Eden? Why?

How do Adam and Eve respond to God's questions?

How do we see sin create distance between us and God, us and others, and us and creation?

Genesis 4:1-8

Why is the story of Cain and Abel told?

What does this story teach us about human relationships?

Genesis 6:5-22

Genesis 7:6

Genesis 8:22

Genesis 9:8-17

What does this story say about humanity's tendency to sin and about God's incredible compassion?

What role does the rainbow play, both then and now?

Genesis 11:1-9

Why does humanity come together to build this tower?

What does this story reveal about our desires and goals when separated from the will of God?

Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden

- Temptation and sin are both a result of corrupting the goodness God created (Genesis 2:17 and Genesis 3:1).

- Adam and Eve's sin infected the land and their relationships with others.

Characteristics of Sin

- Sin compels us to hide from the goodness and purity of God.
- Many times, we choose not to take responsibility for our sins.
- Sin keeps us from being honest with ourselves.

Noah and the Ark

- This story shows us that sin has definite consequences. In this instance, God directly punished creation.
- The natural consequence of our sin is a life of disorder, pain, and chaos.
- The story of the judgment and the flood are also stories of mercy and grace (i.e. the rainbow).

Genesis 11: The Tower of Babel

- This story illustrates how people strive to be like God, in the sense that they strive for power like God's.
- When we separate ourselves from God, we try to fill the gap with our own abilities and with other people.

Application Questions:

To what extent do we think sin only affects ourselves, and how do we fail to see its impact on those around us?

Like Adam and Eve, or Cain, to what extent do you struggle with blaming others for sin, hiding from God when you sin, or failing to take ownership of your sin?

How have you been the recipient of God's grace, and how does this impact how you view or treat others?