

Beginnings: Study and Discussion Questions

Lesson Five: The Beginning of Life Lived Under Judgment and Death– Genesis 3:8-24

Read Genesis 3:8-24 carefully and answer the following from verses 8-13:

- 1) Verse 8 says that Adam and Eve “heard the sound” of the Lord God as He was walking in the garden. According to John 4:24, God is spirit, so how was it possible that the Lord’s footsteps (or voice) were audible? See Genesis 18:1-19:1, Daniel 3:19-27, and Colossians 1:15.

- 2) Contrast the ways you imagine Adam and Eve must have felt before and after their disobedience whenever they heard the sound of God approaching in the garden.

- 3) How would you describe Adam and Eve’s responses to God’s questions about eating from the forbidden tree? What is your usual response when confronted with wrongdoing?

Reread Genesis 3:14-19.

- 4) In verse 15, God foretells ongoing enmity between the power of evil (the “seed” or “offspring” of the serpent) and the human race (the “seed” or “offspring” of the woman). What individual or group might the “offspring of the serpent” represent and what individual or group might the “offspring of the woman” represent? See John 8:42-45, Romans 5:15-19, Galatians 3:26, Titus 2:13-14, and 1 John 3:8-10.

- 5) How were the woman and the man cursed?

- 6) If we cannot gain ultimate satisfaction from our families (3:16) or our work (3:17), where are we to find it? See Genesis 5:24, 6:8-9, and Psalm 16:11. Record a specific way that you need to apply this knowledge today.

Reread Genesis 3:14-24.

- 7) Can you suggest a prophetic fulfillment to Genesis 3:15? See Galatians 4:4-5, Hebrews 2:14, and 1 John 3:8.
- 8) In light of all you have learned in these early chapters of Genesis, consider God's judgments upon the serpent, Eve, and Adam. Based on Genesis 1-3 alone, what do we learn about the justice of God?
- 9) The serpent, Adam, and Eve faced God's judgment. One day, each of us will stand before God's judgment seat.
- a) If you have considered God's judgment prior to this study, what thoughts and feelings have come to mind?
- b) How is your thinking about God's judgment impacted by your study of Genesis 3 and the following references: 1 Samuel 16:7; Psalm 9:7-8, 96:10; John 3:16-18; Romans 2:2, 11:33; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Hebrews 9:27; 1 John 4:17-18; and Revelation 20:13?

Reread Genesis 3:20-24.

- 10) Presumably, what sacrifice had to be made for Adam and Eve to be sufficiently covered following their sin?

11) In the scriptures, fire often symbolizes God's glory, holiness, and judgment (Exodus 3:2, 13:21, 24:17; Isaiah 33:14; 2 Thessalonians 1:7; and Hebrews 12:29). With this in mind, what was the purpose of the flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the Tree of Life?

12) Read John 5:24, Romans 5:8, 6:23, and 10:9-10, 2 Corinthians 5:21, and 1 Peter 2:24.

a) According to these passages, what had to happen in order for the way to eternal life (represented by the Tree of Life) to reopen?

b) Have you verbally confessed that Jesus is Lord, believed in your heart that He is God's provision for your sin, and believed that God raised Jesus from the dead as proof that His sacrifice was accepted? If so, record a prayer of gratitude to God for His life-giving provision. If not, are you willing to believe and to make that confession today?

Overview of Genesis 3:8-24

13) Using whatever amount of Bible knowledge you may have, list the major Biblical themes that are introduced in Genesis 3:8-24?

14) God's grace is His unmerited favor. How did God extend grace to Adam and Eve immediately after their fall?

15) How has God extended grace (undeserved favor) to you in the past week? Be as specific as possible.