

3. How is this Your Story?

As we reviewed the story of sin in Genesis, we saw what happened when Adam and Eve sinned. Adam and Eve felt ashamed and they tried to cover themselves. They hid because they were afraid of the God who loves them, and they blamed others for their sinful condition. As a result, their relationship to God and one another was broken and they were banished from the garden that God had given them. Discuss with your group how that story parallels our own. Can you see where you have missed God's goal, violated His trust or distorted His truth? How might we try to cover our own sin or hide from God? Take some time to express thanks that God intervened on your behalf so that you did not have to remain separated by sin.

WRAP-UP

In Genesis chapter 3 we witnessed the encounter of man with Satan. The seeds of sin were sown and the resulting transgression broke trust between God and man. We forfeited our opportunity to live in harmony with God and be a reflection of Him. Instead we followed a different path of shame and brokenness. The story of Genesis 3 has been repeated in all of our lives. Each of us has broken trust with God, and the result is the loss of that harmonious relationship in the Garden. But God was not willing to leave us there, and He provided a solution to sin through Jesus our Savior. If we accept His solution, we can be restored to eternal life and the right relationship with God that He intended for us.

Memory Verse

For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.
- Romans 5:17 NLT

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members' needs: (see back for more space)

Challenge- Time for a quick self-assessment. Have you violated God's trust, distorted His truth or simply missed the standard He sets? If so, confess it and return to the path God has set for you to follow.

"Sin"

Live A Better Story- Week #3

INTRODUCTION

Last week we saw that our story began in a garden, with a perfect relationship to the God who loves us and invites us to join Him as his image bearers. This week the story takes a tragic turn. Sin enters the world and leaves destruction in its wake. But what exactly is sin, how did this tragedy happen and how is this a part of our story? Let's find out.

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

If you woke up tomorrow in a world without sin, what do you think would be the first thing that you would notice is different?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

1. What is sin?

There are several words that the Bible translates as "sin" in the English. Let's look at three main concepts from the roots of three of these words that define sin; missing the goal (Khata)-, violating trust (Pesha), and making something distorted (Avon).

Romans 3:23 NLT - 23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Genesis 1:27-28 NLT - 27 So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."

Missing the Goal (Khata)- if sin means missing the goal, we need to ask ourselves, "What is the goal?" How does Romans 3:23 define the goal we've fallen short of? If we look for God's standard in the story of creation, what did God intend for us to be (Gen 1:27-28)? How do you think sin prevents us from reflecting God's image?

Violating Trust (Pesha)- In the garden, Satan caused Eve to question what God had said. In Gen 1:28 what had God entrusted to man? What was the condition placed on man's use of the garden in Gen 2:17? In what

way were Adam and Eve violating God's trust when they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

Genesis 2:16-17 NLT - 16 But the LORD God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden-- 17 except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die."

Genesis 3:4-6 NLT - 4 "You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. 5 "God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil." 6 The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too.

Making Crooked (Avon) or Distorted- This concept of sin is also called iniquity. It implies that sin distorts the truth of God and results in iniquity which is twisted or wicked. Psalm 73 tells us iniquity comes from callous hearts and unlimited evil imagination. What solution does Proverbs 3 give us to a callous heart? What is one example of twisting or distorting God's truth that results in sin?

Psalm 73:7 NIV - 7 From their callous hearts comes iniquity; their evil imaginations have no limits.

Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV - 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

2. What results from sin?

If we follow the story of sin in Gen 3:7-13 we see the consequences. What were Adam and Eve first aware of after eating the fruit? When they recognized their exposure and vulnerability, they didn't like it. What was their solution to this condition?

When God called out to man, how did Adam explain the reason for his hiding? Think about what it takes for you to feel comfortable in someone's presence when you are vulnerable and fully exposed. What do you think that reveals about how man's relationship with God had changed as a result of sin?

Genesis 3:7-13 NLT - 7 At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves. 8 When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees. 9 Then the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" 10 He replied, "I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked." 11 "Who told you that you were naked?" the LORD God asked. "Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?" 12 The man replied, "It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it." 13 Then the LORD God asked the woman, "What have you done?" "The serpent deceived me," she replied. "That's why I ate it."

Man's relationship to God was not the only relationship affected by sin. How did sin change the relationship between Adam and Eve in verses 12 and 13?

Genesis 3:21 NLT - 21 And the LORD God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife.

Romans 6:23 NLT - 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Genesis 3:19 NLT - 19 By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return."

Don't miss what happens in verse 21. Even after He explains the details of the consequences of sin, God intervenes on behalf of man. What does he provide for them as a better solution than fig leaves?

Fig leaves wouldn't last long or be very effective in covering the results of sin. To give Adam and Eve skins, God had to sacrifice an animal. This was the first death on earth, and it was a direct result of sin. In verse 19 what is the next death referred to? How does Romans 5 explain the relationship between sin and death?

Romans 5:17-18 NLT - 17 For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ. 18 Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone.