

Jesus said, "Come to Me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matt 11:28). He will give rest to your spirit and peace to your mind.

TALK ABOUT

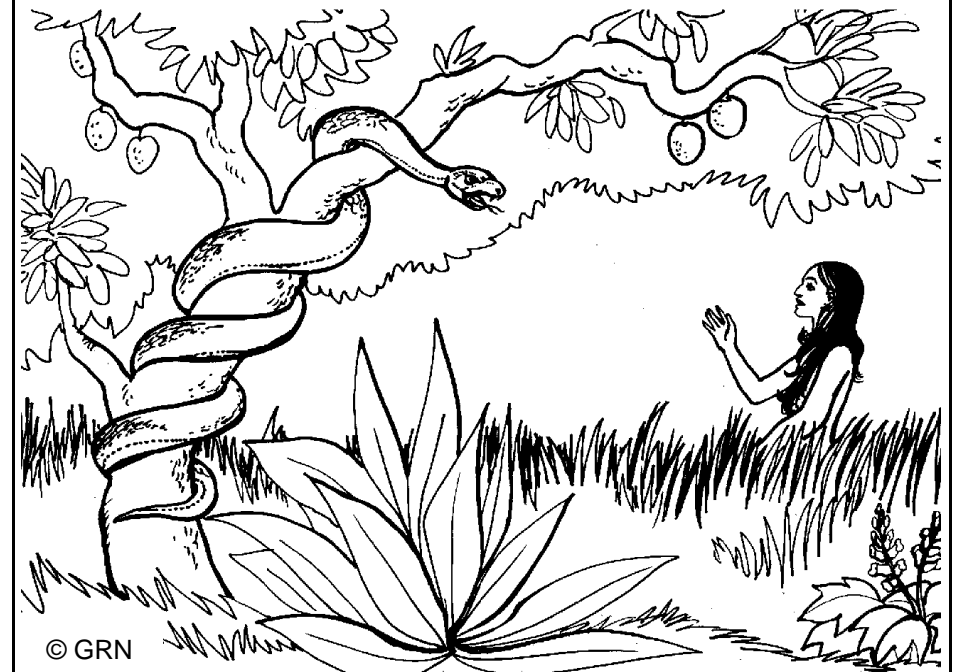
1. How do we give Satan a foothold in our lives?
2. Why is it dangerous to be alone?
3. The Christian Church is called the B.....of Christ? In this analogy God honored marriage between a man and a woman only. No other arrangement pleases Him.
4. Why did Adam and Eve feel afraid of God?
5. Why did they feel naked when they were wearing the 'clothes' Eve had made for them?
6. Before a Holy God, sinners stand 'naked.' What remedy for sin did God provide?
7. Why did God put Adam and Eve out of the garden (Gen 3:22)?
8. Can we know God in a personal relationship (Matt 11:28)?
9. Do you walk and talk with God every day? God wants to walk and talk with you. Incredible, but true!

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Manna Study Books

EVE

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To the Reader: Keep your Bible beside you as you read this study. Go slowly. Find the references in your Bible. Ask a friend to study with you. Talk over what you have learned from the study and what God is doing in your life. You will be blessed.

Unit 1. EVE, THE MOTHER OF ALL THE LIVING

Introduction: The Bible has many skeptics. In particular the Genesis record of creation comes under attack. No one can prove that God created the world in six days nor can they prove the origin of man. But that does not take away from the integrity of the Bible. God gave us this record and even the greatest skeptic must be impressed with its simplicity, honesty, unity, its historical and geographical accuracy and its preservation. No other record has survived the centuries or makes a better case for intelligent design.

A Palestinian terrorist who converted to faith in Christ studied Genesis to prove to his wife that it was false. The Genesis record convinced him that the Bible record is true. He said, "There is no such record anywhere else that makes sense, that sets out so clearly the reason for my existence."

THE BIBLE RECORD

The Genesis record tell us that when God created 'man' – the Hebrew word is generic – "male and female He created them" (Genesis 1:27).

God created men and women for fellowship. Can you believe it! God was lonely for fellowship, so He created Adam and Eve!

"God alone is immortal...who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see" (1 Timothy 6:16). Most amazing is that God gave His immortality to man. The record tells us that "the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man (the Adam=red earth) became a living being" (Genesis 2:7).

There was something very intimate and powerful about God's action. God breathed His eternal life into mortal clay, creating an immortal soul that was "like Him" and that would live on forever.

As an artist signs a painting, so God stamped His imprint on His own work. God made the man and later the woman 'in His likeness.' The man and the woman had "God's own image..." put on them (Genesis 1:27).

So the human kind stands a breed apart from the rest of creation:

- a) In his nature and constitution, man is a rational being (Isa 1:18).
- b) In his authority over creation, man is born to rule (Gen 1:28).
- c) In his moral conscience, man was created righteous (Eph 4:24).
- d) In his three-part nature; man is like God (1 Thessalonians 5:23).
- e) In the immortality of his spirit which lives forever (Matt 25:46).

We can think of God's image on mankind as being like the image of a king's head on a coin, or the likeness of a face in an artist's drawing.

if we are to keep in step with another person. I had to practice walking with my wife. She has short legs and a short step.

The Bible speaks of being 'in step' with the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:25). Walking with God allows us time for fellowship, communion...the opening of one heart to the other. It takes time and commitment!

Stan still fights on, in the hope of sending multitudes to their graves without Christ. But he fights a lost cause. The gospel of Jesus Christ offers men and women hope of eternal life and power to overcome all the temptations Satan would put in their path.

SPECIAL TEMPTATIONS OF WOMEN

Every woman was made to be loved and cherished by a man. I know some feminists would object to this statement. Some women feel that they have no use for a man and no need of one in their life. But this flies in the face of what God planned in the beginning (Gen 2:24).

When the Pharisees came to Jesus with a hard question on divorce He replied, "Haven't you read, that at the beginning the Creator made them male and female and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together let no man separate.'" (Matthew 19:4–6). He allowed that some would not marry, but this would not be the norm. God planned that when a person does marry it is to be to a person of the opposite sex and for life.

What causes women so much tragedy and pain? The sin and lust that has warped man's mind and driven him to abuse the opposite sex. Abuse in childhood affects so many women and turns them against men. Others who have been abused as children or young adults feel driven to prove themselves.

Depression stalks many single women, some married ones, too. It is a cruel monster. For some it catches them because they have a low concept of themselves as a person or because they have been jilted by a 'lover.'

Believe what God has said. You are created "in His image," and have all the potential that He has put into your mind and body. Believe that God has a plan for your life and ask Him to show it to you. He wants you to serve Him with joy and great expectation.

For the Christian, the future is as bright as the promises of God.

If you have not received God's forgiveness, tell Him you are sorry for your past sins. He commands all people, everywhere to repent. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).

And Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).

There is no other way to come to God and receive His forgiveness and blessing. Come to Him now.

her taking the fruit and giving some to Adam played over and over in her mind. It haunted her through the day and it brought terror to her dreams.

PARADISE LOST – A SON GAINED

Eve lost paradise and gained pain and suffering. She worked along with Adam to plant and harvest and prepare the food they ate. The earth was hard and the weather not as pleasant as it had been.

But beyond the days of toil, Eve longed for “the promised seed” (Gen 3:15). It was her hope that God would grant her to conceive the “seed” who would crush the serpent’s head under his heel.

When she conceived and a son was born to the couple, Eve shouted for joy: “With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man” (Gen 4:1–2).

She called him Cain.

Later she gave birth to another son and called him Abel. The name itself means ‘temporary’ or ‘a breath.’

SATAN’S ANGER

All through history, Satan has trampled on the women and insulted her. But her ‘seed’ would win the final victory over him. God would honor the woman in a striking and miraculous way. Jesus Christ, God’s Son, would be born of the woman.

“But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons” (Gal 4:4).

Christ lived and died so that we may be free from Satan’s power and control. By faith in Jesus Christ, we are rescued from the kingdom of darkness into which Adam’s sin plunged the world. And God delivers us “into the Kingdom of the Son He loves” (Col 1:13).

TALK ABOUT

1. Sin stripped Adam and Eve of what blessings?
2. How did Eve try to hide their shame? Did God accept this ‘covering’?
3. How did sin change Eve’s role in the family?
4. What is God’s marriage law (Genesis 2:24)?
5. In what ways has society left this standard?

Unit 9. WE CAN KNOW GOD

We can know God personally, just as Adam did. We can know God, because the Son came to earth to reveal the Father to us. We can know God and walk with Him by His Spirit, just as Eve and Adam did in the garden.

God is a loving and caring person. He walked with Adam and Eve. He did not out-run them, but waited for Eve’s 18-inch stride. This is what we must do

IT IS NOT GOOD

After every creative act, God expressed His satisfaction the words, “It was very good.” But when it came to Adam, sitting alone, God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him” (Gen 2:18).

So “God took part of the man’s side and closed up the place with flesh.” (Gen 2:21). The Hebrew word ‘Sala’ may mean ‘rib’. God acted while man slept. Man had no part in this work of grace, the creation of woman.

When God brought Eve to Adam he sang a wedding song: He said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman=life’... (Gen 2:23). In this ‘marriage-uniting’ they became “one flesh.” This speaks of a unity, each sex meeting the needs of the other. The woman, with the man, fill up or make complete their own kind.

We are reminded that Christ slept in death so that the Christian Church might be born. So the Church is ‘born’ of Christ’s very own Self, “bone of His bones and flesh of His flesh.” He is the Head, even as Adam was the head of creation. Christians whom God has called out of all nations are Christ’s body.

TALK ABOUT

1. God created man and woman “in His own.....?”
2. God created man and woman with these special abilities?
3. Why is it not good for man to live alone?
4. Eve was Adam’s helper. What does this mean?
5. How does a woman’s character complement that of a man?

Unit 2. GOD’S COMMAND

Two beautiful trees grew in the center of the garden: The tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:9–17). God said to Adam, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”

Adam and Eve were free to eat the fruit from any tree in the garden. They were assured of an endless supply of food and of Life itself.... immortal life, upon their obedience.

SATAN, THE TEMPTER

All was bliss and happiness until a stranger came into the garden. Satan was created a beautiful angel, but he rebelled against God and was thrown out of heaven. Other angels joined Satan’s rebellion and were thrown out of heaven with him. God has allowed Satan to be a free spirit and fight against His people. Satan leads a host of demon spirits in this onslaught.

Jesus said of the devil, “There is no truth in him. When he lies he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:44).

On this day, Eve was alone. Perhaps her desire for a little 'quiet,' or as some call it, "solitude," took her away from Adam. Or was she an independent spirit who roamed the garden alone on many occasions?

And on this day she had a strange encounter with a serpent. "Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made" (Gen 3:1). Satan used the serpent, a resident of the garden, to speak his lies to Eve and deceive her. The serpent was an inferior creature and Eve had been given dominion over it.

How Eve heard a voice is not told. It is clear that the voice that she heard expressed her own thoughts and desires: Satan came to Eve with a clever suggestion. He spoke as if a hard-to-believe rumor had reached his ears: "Surely God did not tell you...." Or "Did God really say....that you must not eat the fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must touch it, or you will die," he said to Eve. With this lie Satan sowed the seeds of doubt in Eve's mind.

There is secret wisdom here, Stan hinted, "You can be like God!"

Perhaps Satan thought, 'I could not create other beings to follow me, but I can take care of this puny female! God may well say to her, 'You can have dominion over the works of My hands...' But I will see that she doesn't. God will have to do better than this couple if He's going to oust me.'

Eve listened. She was deceived (1 Tim 2:14). She saw that the fruit was beautiful and good to eat, so she put out her hand and took some and ate it.

She gave some of the fruit to Adam. Like all men he had the inclination to follow the woman, rather than lead. Yet God created the man to be the head. Adam should have said, "No! Remember God's command!"

But it was too late! The dye was cast!

THE MARRIAGE COVENANT

Eve was created for Adam. But more importantly, Eve was created for God. God wanted to have fellowship with woman. And woman would be the man's partner for life. Eve complemented Adam in every way and became his helper. This supportive role comes into its glory in Christian marriage.

In Christian marriage – and I emphasize 'Christian' – each partner 'gives himself or herself up' for the marriage union. But God places more responsibility on the husband, the head (1 Cor 11:3). The man must give himself up completely and in everything for his marriage to succeed and model what God has set out in His word. The husband "gives up his own wishes" for his bride's protection, provision, comfort and happiness, just as Christ did for His Bride. And then for the children born of their union.

We believe Eve had an intimate relationship with Adam. She lived together with him in innocence and happiness, enjoying sexual union – being "one flesh" – with no guilt or fear to spoil their relationship.

It is said: "If man is the head of the human race, woman is the crown!"

judicial?) man saw himself as righteous and God as unjust. As long as man is under this 'blindness', he will never reach out for, or lay hold of God's mercy in redemption (Isaiah 6:9; Romans 3:10–11; 2 Corinthians 3:14–15).

Adam and Eve tried to redeem themselves. They put on aprons of leaves that Eve made for them. But man's works cannot save him (Eph 2:8–9).

God took an animal and killed it and made garments to cover Adam and Eve's naked bodies (Genesis 3:21). It cost the life blood of an innocent animal to hide their sin from God's eyes. Blood had to be shed to make a covering for them.

Some regard this as a picture of Christ giving up His life to save mankind from sin.

TALK ABOUT

1. How did the curse affect Adam?
2. How did the curse affect Eve?
3. Do we ever read of Adam or Eve repenting?
4. What would you say are the benefits of drawing near to God in prayer?
5. Does God listen to sinners (Isaiah 59:2)?
6. When we sin, what should we do (1 John 1:8–9)?

Unit 8. DRASTIC ACTION

After God pronounced curses on the serpent (Satan), a promise of a Redeemer, hardships for the woman in her role as a mother and on Adam as the provider, He turned to the matter of covering their bodies with skins.

In the counsels of heaven, the Lord God said, "The man (or mankind) has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever" (Gen 3:22).

So God executed a terrible final act of judgment on Adam and Eve. Because they had sinned against God and against all creation, He "drove" the man and the woman out of the garden. They went reluctantly! And God set Cherubim with flaming sword to guard the way back (Genesis 3:22–24).

Adam and Eve were put out of the presence of Almighty God and nowhere do we read that God ever spoke to them again.

THE TERROR OF GUILT

Sin brings guilt. Guilt always follows when we break of God's law. It is an after-the-fact reality. Eve knew that God had said, "You shall not eat....," so that she felt her guilt greatly.

In her bleak existence outside the garden, guilt engulfed her. Eve hated herself! The image of God in Eve cried out; she tried to stifle it. She tried everything she could think of to get rid of the guilt of her sin. But the scene of

Further God told Eve, “Your desire will be toward your husband, and he will rule over you” (Genesis 3:16). Eve’s husband would take advantage of this ‘desire’ on her part and use it to “rule over her.”

Where the appetite for sexual satisfaction is normal and God-given, sin has brought it to the fore and made it a primary objective. This longing for sex became over-powering. It lies behind many broken marriages.

Normal sexual desire was overtaken by lust. Lust leads to the abuse of women who have become the focus of a lucrative sex trade around the world.

Before they sinned, God was the source of all Eve’s needs. From this day onward she would look to Adam for protection, shelter, food and fellowship. None of which he would provide to her complete satisfaction.

EVE AND HER ROLE IN FAMILY

Before sin entered the world, woman was QUEEN OF HER FAMILY; now she would be used. Her desire (a word used of Cain’s anger in Gen 4:6) would ever be toward her husband who would “rule” over her. Where there is no husband involved you can put ‘man would rule over her’ as in Genesis 19:31–38.

Before the fall, man had God-given authority to rule as ‘head’ over his wife and family. After the fall, he ruled by virtue of his sex. Before it was a spiritual dimension related to the ‘image of God’. After the fall, it became physical and fleshly and would be greatly abused.

I believe women have every right to rebel against wrong male attitudes and wives have every right to look for the image-authority of God in their husbands.

TEMPTED AND TRIED

Adam and Eve were tested. God may test us, but only Satan and evil can tempt us (James 1:18). God tests us for our own good (Deut 8:2). But Satan tempts us to make us fall.

It is wrong to think that man’s environment was hostile, with a Satan behind every tree and rock. In the garden, in Eden, the man and woman lived in a perfect world. Everything in it was good because God is absolute goodness (Gen 1:31; Mark 10:18).

Karl Marx said man’s actions are determined by his economic condition, but Adam and Eve had every advantage and sinned anyway. That proves Marxism is wrong.

In sinning against God man lost everything:

- a) His acceptance with God and communion with Him.
 - b) His life in garden paradise.
 - c) His authority over nature – and maybe over his own family?
 - d) All hope for the future, unless God intervened to save him.
- God gave man up to his own ego. In his blindness (newly acquired and

TALK ABOUT

1. Men need to ask themselves, ‘How often does my wife see me standing firm against wrong?’
2. Do I give up everything for my marriage?
3. Wives must seek God and know His will and not leave this to their husbands.
4. Who spelled out the marriage covenant for mankind (Gen 2:24)?
5. Christian marriage is a picture of a believer’s relationship to Christ ___ True ___ False?
6. Should a Christian marry a non-Christian (2 Cor 6:14)?

Unit 3. IT IS DANGEROUS TO BE ALONE

In these days and perhaps in every age it is dangerous to be alone. When we are alone we have no one to counsel or support us. It is at such times that Satan takes advantage of us. Satan uses evil men to attack and hurt the people God created. Satan stalks God’s people when they are alone!

Eve may have been looking at the fruit on the tree. She saw that “the fruit was good for food and pleasing to the eye” (Genesis 3:6).

If you don’t want to fall into Satan’s trap, do not go near places of evil. On the outside they look good and you think you will enjoy yourself, but they are traps set by Satan.

Paul wrote to the Christians at Ephesus, “and do not give the devil a foothold” (Eph 4:27). Give him an inch, and he will take a mile, as they say.

To young Timothy Paul wrote, “Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace...” (2 Tim 2:22).

Satan still tempts men and women in the same way:

1. He questions whether what they are about to do is a sin or not a sin.
2. He told Eve there was no danger in eating the fruit.
3. He told her the fruit would make her wise and her husband also.

Satan always promises delights to satisfy our sinful nature. But he never mentions the consequences. They are left for the sinner to discover after the fact.

THEY FELT SHAME

Shame comes from Satan. Any time you feel shame, Satan has been at work. Sin produces guilt and guilt causes people to feel shame. Men and women feel shame because God has given every person a conscience.

Eve’s conscience was new and clear and not deadened by any previous sin. It needed no training in righteousness as our consciences do.

God created Adam and Eve perfect and glorious in their beings: “The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame” (Gen 2:25). This verse contrasts with 3:7, “they realized they were naked.”

From these words we conclude that Adam and Eve did not know nakedness or have any sense of shame until after they had sinned.

Before sin came, their 'nakedness' was not uppermost in their awareness of each other, and it didn't bother them. "No sin in their conscience; no shame on their faces" – until...that terrible day when Eve took fruit from the tree and ate it and gave some to Adam!

Were they shrouded in the light and glory of their Creator? Did this fall away suddenly when they sinned, exposing their bodies as they had never seen them before? We believe the answer to both questions is "Yes!"

THEY WERE CHANGED

Before this sad tragedy, Eve loved her husband with a pure love. And she had no reason to doubt Adam's sincerity in returning her love.

God was at the center of their lives and they worshipped Him only. Satan had hoped Eve would worship him, but her thoughts turned inward.

Suddenly, Adam and Eve had exchanged the God of love, who had consumed all their attention and worship, for their own egos.

Eve felt uneasy; she may have feared that Adam would try to get even for the hurt she had caused. The Bible says, "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love" (1 John 4:18).

So Eve began to question Adam's intentions. She questioned his love for her and she worried about her appearance. She may have felt depressed and lonely. She had exchanged God's rule over her for man's rule. That exchange came at a great price. With the passing years, Adam grew more and more jealous and possessive.

Sin has given men and women an unhealthy, even Satanic obsession with sex. Women are oppressed and abused and have become the commodity of a lucrative sex trade. Her beautiful body, declared by God to be sacred and His temple, is violated and abused because of sin.

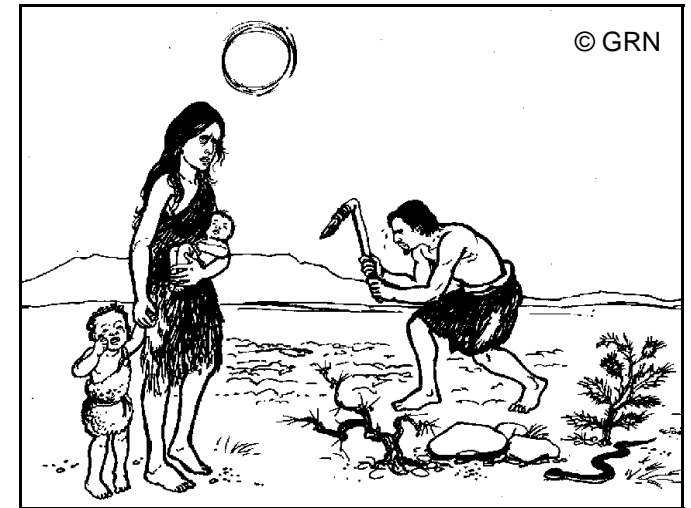
TALK ABOUT

1. Did Eve need to rest in the shade, go away from Adam, expose herself to evil?
2. How can we avoid temptation?
3. What makes us feel shame and hide? (John 3:19)
4. How easy was it for Satan to tempt Eve?
5. Did Adam know how to guard his wife from evil? Did Adam know that evil lurked near at hand?
6. Did Adam and Eve understand death?
7. What reason did Adam give for accepting the fruit from Eve?
8. Does God ever tempt us to sin (James 1:18)?
9. Was Eve able to escape the terror of her guilt?

spiritual failure. If he would recognize this for himself, it would help him see his need of a Savior.

All history proves that man is not able to lift himself up to God. History shows man's lack of moral integrity. We see government graft and corruption and a lack of social justice. Men look in vain for a better world.

God's plan of salvation, offered in a New Covenant, is the only possible way for man to recover from this hopeless condition (Luke 22:20; Hebrews 8:13; 12:24).



TALK ABOUT

1. Why did God curse the serpent?
2. What was the result of Eve's sin?
3. Do you understand God's plan of salvation?
4. Did God have to change His plans in a hurry?
5. Who did Eve blame (Gen 3:12-13)?
6. Who did Adam blame for his sin?
7. Will ever person have to give an accounting to God (Rom 14:12)?
8. Why is it so hard for a man to see his failings?

Unit 7. A CURSE ON THE WOMAN

God said to Eve, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing...."

Conception may have become more difficult, gestation more complicated and the birth of a child more painful.

God spoke to Eve as the bearer of life. He spoke a judgment that struck deep at the root of her being. Woman's chief glory is that all new life must come through her body. She would bring new life into the world, but not without pain. In this life, the woman's glory is complete when she gives birth to a child. Even little girls talk of being 'a mother' and play at motherhood!

For this reason, Eve's body longed to reproduce her own kind. But from this time on, childbirth would cause physical pain and often, sorrow. God joined the pain of reproduction with a strong desire for her partner.

TALK ABOUT

1. Why did God create a being, so perfect and beautiful as Eve, when He knew that she would turn against Him?
2. Satan is a wicked spirit __ True __ False?
3. Satan uses others to tempt us __ True __ False?
4. Jesus said, "Satan is the father of....."(John 8:44).
5. Why do you think Adam ate the fruit Eve offered him?
6. Why did God come to the garden in the evening?
7. Did He find Eve and Adam waiting for Him? Why?
8. What did God do then?
9. Why did Eve suddenly feel naked?
10. How did she cover herself?

Unit 6. GOD'S PROMISE TO EVE

Man sinned but...but, praise God, He had a perfect plan! We are told that He always had this plan, even before the foundation of the world (Matt 25:34). God's plan is called "The Redemption of Mankind." It is the greatest plan ever conceived and set in motion. Those who study it all their lives, still do not understand it fully. It has been the subject of thousands of books, written by men of great wisdom.

Even more wonderful, you can know God and follow His plan even if you don't fully understand it. And God's plan is set out in His promise to Eve. You will never be disappointed if you chose to follow God's plan. Never!

Even a five-year-old can know and follow God's plan. Any child of five or six can respond to God's love. This is so because it is not so much what we understand of the plan in our minds that matters, but how our hearts respond to His love.

GOD SPOKE A CURSE ON CREATION

God spoke a curse on Satan and on the man and woman:

1. a curse on Satan and on the serpent (we do not understand this)
2. a curse on the land, thorns and thistles; harsh environment
3. a hardship for the woman, pain in childbirth
4. the woman exchanged God's rule for man's rule
5. a hardship for the man – toil and sweat with lack of authority
6. the promise of a Deliverer who would defeat Satan

God spoke these curses and hardships without any ill-will or malice. He has every right to hate sin and He is perfectly just in His judgment of sinners. Satan and evil are His enemies and always have been!

In adding these curses, God helped Adam and Eve to see their failure. And He ensured the collapse of all man's endeavors. Man is a moral and

Unit 4. EVE'S GLORY WILL BE RESTORED

Adam and Eve had the glory of God around them. I think of it as wrapping them in a glorious light and splendor that we cannot understand. When they rebelled against God, this mantle of glory fell off, and they found themselves 'naked' (Gen 3:7). This is the glory of God which we, as sinners, fall short of (Rom 3:23).

At once, and for the first time, they saw each other without the cloak of God's righteousness and holiness. They realized they were "naked" and they were ashamed. Satan had torn away their righteousness and replaced it with his ugly counterfeit 'image.'

However, "in Christ" that righteousness of God is restored to us. "The righteous will shine...like the sun..." (Matt 13:43). This shining brightness seems to be the original state of the man and woman in the garden. They were glorious beings!

What hinders our shining now? This veil of flesh. God said, "No good dwells in man." (Rom 7:18). And "There is no one righteous, not even one..." (Romans 3:10). So men and women have mortal bodies dragged down by the sin nature which they inherited from Eve, the mother of all living. Their lives are further soiled by the way they live. Not until humans receive a resurrection body, will they "shine" again. God in us, shining out His perfection...that is His plan for those who love Him and receive His salvation.

If God's light had shone on mankind directly, he would have been blinded, maybe consumed. So God's light – His presence and glory – shone on mankind through Jesus Christ (Heb 1:3). Jesus said, "I am the light of the world (of men and women). Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). He is the source of man's light and of and of his eternal life.

CLOTHES FROM FIG LEAVES

Yes, Eve was a seamstress! She saw what a horrible transformation had come over her and her husband. And she felt shame at her nakedness. So she went to find the biggest leaves in the garden. She found what the Bible calls "fig leaves," perhaps like those of the banana palm.

Eve found a way of sewing the leaves together to make, not a grass skirt, which is so common to women in the Pacific Islands, but a leaf covering.

She gave one to Adam and she dressed herself with fig leaves.

But still Eve felt afraid of what God would say to her, so she sought out Adam and together they found a place to hide among the bushes of the garden.

Sin always brings guilt and guilt always carries with it the concept of punishment. Adam and Eve were afraid God would punish them, so they hid themselves.

It was not long before they heard God walking – like the wind blows? They knew the presence of a living being in the garden – a loving, speaking, providing, instructing Father who had come there to have fellowship with them.

Where meek hearts and open minds seek Him, He comes. When His people call upon Him, or come together for fellowship, He is there with them.

When we draw aside as individuals and listen for His voice, we hear Him speak to us by His Holy Spirit. It is important to get alone, and be still if we want to hear God's voice. The Bible repeatedly affirms this... "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).

TALK ABOUT

1. How are both sexes protected by God's Marriage Law?
2. How is society protected by this law (Gen 2:24)?
3. The husband-wife union is a picture of the union between Christ and His Church. Talk about Christ, the model husband, loving His bride enough to die for her.
4. How can we have this personal relationship with God, our heavenly Father?

Unit 5. EVE MISSED AN APPOINTMENT

Can you image setting up an appointment with a very special friend and then not meeting them?

My wife's brother was as diamond salesman. Every time he set up an appointment to meet us, he was not in the right place at the right time. It did not take us long to learn why.

But can you imagine your friend doing something so terrible that he or she did not want to see you ever again? Wanting to hide what they had done?

That is what happened in the garden in Eden. God came to the garden to keep His regular appointment to walk and talk with Eve and her husband.

Adam and Eve were not where they were supposed to be! Eve had not kept her appointment with God!

At the end of life, we all have an appointment to keep. The Bible says, "Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away sins..." (Heb 10:27).

We will all keep that appointment. Are you ready to meet God?

EVE WAS NOT IN SIGHT

God had always walked and talked with Eve and Adam in the "cool of the evening." God knew their needs, so He came in the evening as the days are very hot in the Middle East.

Eve and Adam were not anywhere to be seen. So what did God do? He did the obvious thing – He called to the man and his wife, "Where are you?"

But Eve and Adam were hiding from God. How foolish! So God pursued them and arrested them with a question.

Adam answered, "I heard You in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; so I hid" (Genesis 3:9–10).

Before they sinned they had no feeling of guilt or shame; no feeling of nakedness. When they sinned, their covering of righteous fell around their feet, for they had been "created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness" (Eph 4:24).

Only when our sins are forgiven came we come before God "in Christ." And only "in Christ" are we welcome to "approach His throne of grace with confidence" (Heb 4:16).

GOD CURSED THE SERPENT

Much is written about the fall of man because this one event changed the history of the world – and our own lives! For we are "in Adam" and "in Adam all die" (1 Cor 15:22). "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom 3:23). This does not mean just physical death, but being cut off from the Presence of God and the Life of God!

"In Adam all die" is the judgment of God on Adam's offspring. There is no way to change it. Sin is hereditary in man. We each received a sin nature from Adam. Because we are 'sinners' by birth, we grow up to be sinners by action. If we do not receive Christ as our Savior, we cannot be made alive in our spirits or have fellowship with our Creator.

THE RESULTS OF SIN

We may well wonder why there was no hint of forgiveness. Adam and Eve did not seek God. God revealed Himself to Moses as "slow to anger... forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin..." (Exodus 34:7).

God had not changed; Adam and Eve had.

We can only conclude that there was no repentance on the part of Adam and Eve. Their words do not show even a hint of being sorry for what they had done.

Adam blamed Eve! He said to God, "The woman you put here with me – she gave me some fruit from the tree and I ate it" (Genesis 3 ;12–13).

Eve blamed the serpent! She told God, "the serpent deceived me, and I ate it."

Men and women are quick to blame others, or their situation or something! But God holds each person responsible for the choices they make.

No one can blame their parents, or the place they grew up in, or their school pals, or their work place.

If their lives are messed up by sin, they can only blame themselves.