



3/1/2020
Genesis 3:14-24

BIG IDEA

Hope over heartache

LOOKING BACK

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Invite members to share any questions or points that came up in their family discussions regarding last week's study. Invite them to share ways God continued to speak to them as they sought to apply those truths throughout the week.

- Share about a time when your plans backfired on you. Why don't things always go according to plan for us?
- How have your own shortcomings contributed to your plans failing?

LOOKING IN

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| **Ask a volunteer to read Genesis 3:14-24.**

- How do you define sin?
- In what sense might sin be the cause of all pain and loss?
- How has sin caused pain and loss in your life?
- Why is it important to consider the universal reach of sin as you wrestle with the meaning of your own pain and loss?

When we begin to see sin as the source of all suffering, we will see that pain indeed links humanity together. Wherever we come from, whatever our occupations are, and whatever course our lives take, we all exist in a sinful world. Because we do, we've all experienced its dreadful effects.

- Where do we see the gospel in these verses?
- What do you learn about God's forgiveness in this account of the first sin?
- Why do you think God prevented Adam and Eve from eating of the Tree of Life? Why did God banish them from the garden?
- What effects of Adam and Eve's sin extended beyond their own personal consequences? What do these effects reveal about the nature of sin?

Even in the account of the very first sin, we see God's grace and forgiveness at work. Verse 15 is known as the protoevangelium, or first gospel. On the cross, Jesus crushed the devil's head, defeating him forever.

Verse 21 recounts God's covering Adam and Eve's shame with animal skin, the first sacrifice. In verses 22-24, God blocked the way to the tree of life so that humankind would not live forever on the now-cursed earth.

LOOKING FORWARD

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

- Where might you be tempted to blur the lines, downplay, or even redefine the sin in your life as something other than sin? Explain. How does the coming of Jesus eliminate our need to hide or shy away from confession?
- How might you address those issues this week? When is it easiest and most difficult for you to confess your sin to God and other people? How are we encouraged in our confession as we remember Jesus?
- What do you learn about God from the fact that He has always used broken people to live out His mission?
- How does a better understanding of God's redemptive plan motivate you to live on mission for Him?

FAMILIES

Use the following questions and truths to disciple your children throughout the week.

- What is the worst consequence you've ever received when you made a wrong choice?
- When you make a wrong choice, who else is impacted by it? Why?
- What does it tell you about God that when Adam and Eve sinned, He gave them consequences? Why do we face the consequences of their sins?

PRAY

Thank God for taking the initiative and sending Jesus to do for us what we could not do for ourselves. Thank Him for His sacrifice on the cross by which we may be forgiven and reconciled to God. Ask Him to help us trust in the power of the cross, both for salvation and the strength in our daily battle against sin. Pray that you will recognize sin for what it is, and desire Jesus all the more.

COMMENTARY

| *Genesis 3:14-24*

Though accountability began with God's confrontation of Adam, judgment began with the serpent. Because of the serpent's key role (being used of Satan) in bringing sin into the human experience, it would be permanently consigned to the position of ultimate shame, under the foot. Hostility between the first woman and the serpent would be passed on to future generations. This verse is the first foretelling of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Even though the woman had been deceived into eating the forbidden fruit, she was still held accountable for her act. Two penalties were imposed; both struck at the heart of a woman's roles in life. More than would have been the case had sin not entered creation, bearing children would add to the sum of anguish in the universe. Marriage would also be marred; though the woman's desire would be for her husband, sin would mar God's plan for marriage and create tormenting inequality and subjugation. The latter is a description of the ravaging effect of sin on a husband-wife relationship, not a prescription for abusing one's wife. Because Adam listened to and obeyed his wife's voice in preference to what God commanded (2:17), a curse would strike at the heart of a fundamental relationship in his life as well. Adam's relationship with the ground would now be forever damaged by sin. All the days of his life he would experience painful labor as he worked to bring forth the fruit of the earth.

The new name Adam gave his wife emphasizes the woman's life-giving role that counteracts the curse of sin, which is death (v. 20). Yet the divine order calls for a reciprocity exhibited in male servant leadership

and female submission, both of which are modeled in Jesus Himself. By making clothing out of skins, the Lord God graciously provided for humanity's need in a way superior to what Adam and Eve had done with fig leaves. Because of sin, people now knew good and evil experientially (v. 22). Since the gift of life was directly tied to obedience, man's sin meant that the penalty of death must be enforced.