

# A Biblical View of the Fall

By Denny Autrey

## Pre-Session Assignments

One week before the session, students will take the following assignments.

### Assignment One

Read Genesis 3:1 and compare to Revelation 12:1–12. Prepare to share your answers to the following questions: What imagery does John use in Revelation to describe the old serpent? What is the serpent doing in both passages?

### Assignment Two

Read 1 John 3:4 and then read the comments related to Genesis 3:4–6 in the section **It's in the Book**. Prepare to share your answers to the following questions: What is lawlessness? Who are those that practice lawlessness?

### Assignment Three

Read Romans 5:12–18 and then read the comments related to Genesis 3:7–10 in the section **It's in the Book**. Prepare to share your answers to the following questions: As a result of Adam's sin in the garden, what has passed to all men? What is the result of sin?

### Scripture to Memorize

*“So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.”* Romans 5:18

### Session Goal

Consistent with God's Word and in the power of the Holy Spirit—by the end of this session, disciples will understand that as a result of Adam and Eve's disobedience in the garden, through the deception brought on by Satan, all people are sinners.

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Denny is married to the former Angela Sue Cain. They have three married daughters—Amber Stovall, Julie Welch, and Haley Saint John—who have graced them with four grandchildren, Jack and Lily Stovall and Grady and Addylyn Welch.

## It's in the Book

30 minutes

### A Biblical View of the Fall

#### Real-Life Scenario

Imagine being asked by a friend at school, "What does it mean to sin? I mean, do you even believe in sin? Don't you think that's an old concept that doesn't matter anymore?"

How would you explain sin and sinfulness to your friend?

**Read** Genesis 3:1–10 out loud.

#### Studying the Passage, v. 1

**Verse 1. serpent.** Most people would recognize this as a snake—a long, cylindrical reptile that crawls on its belly. **crafty.** This term refers to the ability to persuade someone's intellect through disguise or deception. **has God said.** The serpent questioned the woman concerning God's instruction about eating from the trees of the garden. The serpent clearly was using deception to create doubts in the woman's mind.

#### Assignment One Feedback

The student who completed **Assignment One** during the week can now report on the imagery used by John in Revelation 12:1–12.

#### Discussion Question

Read Revelation 12:9 out loud. Who is the "serpent of old"? Is this a reference to Genesis 3? What other names does John use to describe the serpent?

#### On Your Own

Reflect on these questions: What strategy does the serpent use with the woman in the garden? What strategy does he use with the whole world in Revelation 12?

Write a way the serpent today is twisting the thinking of another nation or world leader:

Write a way the serpent today is twisting the thinking of a group in the United States:

Write a way the serpent today twists your thinking when he wants you to do something wrong with your phone or computer:

#### Studying the Passage, Genesis 3:4–6

**Verse 4. You surely will not die.** The serpent's question was designed to cast doubt and deceive the woman concerning the truth. God had already declared that death would come if they ate of the tree of good and evil.

**Verse 6. She took from its fruit and ate; . . . she gave . . . to her husband . . . and he ate.** Both Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command and rebelled against His instructions.

### **Assignment Two Feedback**

The student who completed **Assignment Two** during the week can now report on 1 John 3:4 by answering this question: What is lawlessness, and who are those that practice lawlessness?

### **Studying the Passage, Genesis 3:10**

**Verse 10. afraid.** This term refers to a state in which an individual is fearful or scared. In this case Adam and Eve were fearful of God's presence because they had disobeyed His command concerning the tree. **hid myself.** This Greek term means "to conceal one's whereabouts or to remain in an unnoticed location." The rebellious act of sin against God's command produced a personal awareness of shame and guilt. Adam and Eve were guilty of sin and for the first time were shameful before God.

### **Assignment Three Feedback**

The student who completed **Assignment Three** during the week can now answer these questions: As a result of Adam's sin in the garden, what has passed to all men? What is the result of sin?

### **Discussion Question**

Worldwide four or five babies are born every second. From the moment of conception, how is each of those babies affected by the sin of Adam and Eve in the garden? Have you observed a natural tendency toward selfishness or other wrong behavior among even the youngest toddlers?

People who do not believe in God and do not believe the Bible have a different idea. They believe every baby arrives on earth as a "blank slate." They believe any good or bad in a child must come from outside influences. Would you say your ideas are more like theirs or more like the teaching of the Bible?

### **On Your Own**

David wrote, "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me" (Psalm 51:5). Every person since Adam and Eve can say the same thing.

Paul added, "While we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. . . . Having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him" (Romans 5:6, 9).

In the space below write a prayer to King Jesus. Tell Him you believe that the fall (the sin of Adam) caused you to be conceived in sin—with no hope of being restored to God on your own. Tell Him you believe that bent toward sin would have wrecked your life on earth and would have led to torment for eternity. Express to Him your immense gratitude that He took the initiative to die in your place and to restore you to God. Explain how your gratitude for salvation now motivates you toward His righteousness and His glory.

## **Heart and Hands**

8 minutes

Read again the **Real-Life Scenario** near the beginning of the lesson. Consider whether your answers have changed during the session.

Be silent for two or three minutes. Thank Jesus for His sacrifice and for the gospel. Adore Him for His glorious reign on the throne of heaven.

Then ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you:

1. A way the Scriptures you studied today will change your heart (the real you) for the glory of Christ.
2. Or a way those Scriptures will lead you to stop doing something in your life for the glory of Christ.
3. Or a way those Scriptures will lead you to do something for the glory of Christ.

Write what the Spirit says to you below and then be ready to share what you have written with the group.

## **Since Last Week**

5 minutes

Give the group this update: "In our last session I made a commitment to. . . . I want to let you know how that turned out. On that same issue I think the Holy Spirit now is leading me to . . ."

## **Grace-Filled Accountability**

5 minutes

Disciples can agree on a way to hold one another accountable. Confessing faults with other disciples allows them to offer grace, insights, and encouragement. Even more important is confession to Christ, the source of true forgiveness and cleansing.

## **Planning for Evangelism, Missions, and Service**

5 minutes

Groups of disciples always are making preparations for evangelism, missions, and service. Use these minutes to work on the next plan.

## **Prayer**

7 minutes

Every disciple will pray aloud, offering praise to King Jesus, thanking Him specifically for His gracious acts, making heartfelt confession, committing to actions flowing from the Bible study, praying toward evangelism locally and globally, and interceding for others as prompted by the Holy Spirit.

## **At Home: Nail It Down**

In Genesis 3:1–10, the Bible records Adam and Eve’s act of rebellion against God and their disobedience in partaking of the forbidden fruit. From this story we see that Satan loves using deception to twist the thinking of people and to create doubt toward God.

In Revelation 12:1–12, the Bible tells us that the “serpent of old” is Satan who continues to distort the Word of God and to deceive the heart of man. He is doing that very thing today, and he will continue doing so until the final judgement.

In 1 John 3:4, the Bible teaches that sin is an act of lawlessness or rebellion against God. Every baby (except Jesus) has been born with a “bent” toward sin. Eventually every child acts on that tendency and deliberately chooses to sin. The first deliberate sin confirms the sin nature that has been present since conception.

In Romans 5:12–18, the Bible teaches that Adam’s sin has affected every human being. That sin nature has been passed down through all the generations. But this passage also teaches that, “For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:17). What great news!

Therefore, as a result of this study, how have the Scriptures impacted your relationship with God? with others?

1. Since every baby is conceived with a sin nature and later confirms that nature with willful sin, how many of your friends are presently separated from God? How many in your family, including your extended family? How many in this nation? How many on earth?
2. Apart from Christ, what hope do those you love have of escaping their sin nature and avoiding an eternity in torment? Apart from Christ’s death on the cross, do you know a Plan B that will save them?
3. Among those you love and care about, how many know enough to make the following statement: “I was conceived in sin and as a child I confirmed that sin nature with wrong choices. Today I stand separated from God because of my sin. That means my life on earth will mostly be a mess, and I am heading toward an eternity of torment and separation from God.”
4. Billions of people do not know those things. From your immediate family to those in remote people groups, is King Jesus calling you to share the good news with those whose fate hangs in the balance?

### **Parent Question**

*When did you first become aware of your sinfulness and your need for Christ’s forgiveness?*