

Knowing
God



Through Creation

Discovery Lessons 1 Through 8

KNOWING GOD THROUGH CREATION Lesson One

The purpose of this lesson is to discover who created the world. The story of creation is found in the first chapter in the Holy Bible.

Bible verses from Genesis

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.

5 God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning--the first day.

Verses from other books of the Bible

Isaiah 40:28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

Psalm 90:1-2 A prayer of Moses the man of God. Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

1 Timothy 1:17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Isaiah 26:4 Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal.

Jeremiah 10:10 But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God, the eternal King.

Psalm 93:1-2 The LORD reigns, he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and is armed with strength. The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved. Your throne was established long ago; you are from all eternity.

1 Chronicles 29:11 Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.

Definitions and Explanations

Authority means the right to exercise power, to rule, to govern and to be obeyed.

Create, as used in the Holy Bible, means to bring something into being or make something from nothing.

Eternal and **Everlasting**, referring to God, mean that God was not created. He has always existed from eternity past to eternity future, no beginning and no ending. He existed before anyone or anything including time.

Genesis means beginnings or origins.

Immortal means not subject to death or decay (will never die).

Invisible means unseen. God is an invisible person (spirit).

LORD is one of the names of God.

Majesty signifies greatness and dignity.

Omnipotent means all-powerful. One of the names of God is The Almighty. God has unlimited power and authority over all things, living or non-living things, ever created.

Sovereign means supreme in power and authority above all others. No one is greater than God.

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Questions. Search the Bible verses for the answers.

- 1a. Who is the Creator of the heavens and the earth? *(See Genesis 1:1 and Isaiah 40:28)*
- 1b. In Genesis 1:1, what do the words “In the beginning” refer to? The beginning of what?
- 1c. Who was present at the beginning? *(See Genesis 1:1-2)*
- 1d. What do the “**Verses from other books of the Bible**” say about the length of God’s existence?
- 1e. How did God demonstrate His power? *(See Genesis 1:3 and Romans 1:20)*
- 1f. What belongs to God? *(See I Timothy 1:17 and I Chronicles 29:11)*
- 1g. If God is the Creator, lives forever, and is all-powerful, what does that mean for me as His created being?

KNOWING GOD THROUGH CREATION Lesson Two

The purpose of this lesson is to discover what the God who created the world is like. The story of creation is found in the first chapter in the Holy Bible

Bible verses from Genesis

Genesis 1:6-8 And God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water." ⁷So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above

it. And it was so. ⁸God called the expanse "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning--the second day.

Genesis 1:9-13 And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. ¹²The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening, and there was morning--the third day.

Genesis 1:14-19 And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made two great lights--the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, ¹⁸to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening, and there was morning--the fourth day.

Genesis 1:20-23 And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." ²¹So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind, and God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." ²³And there was evening, and there was morning--the fifth day.

²⁴⁻²⁵ And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

Verses from other books of the Bible

Job 37:14 "Listen to this, ...; stop and consider God's wonders.

Psalms 19:1-2 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

More verses from other books of the Bible

Psalms 77:11 I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.

¹² I will meditate on all your works and consider all your mighty deeds.

¹³ Your ways, O God, are holy. What god is so great as our God?

¹⁴ You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples.

Psalms 107:43 Whoever is wise, let him heed these things and consider the great love of the LORD.

Definitions and Explanations

Consider or **Meditate** means to think about. The verses above tell us to stop and think about God's creation. Think about the order in which He created things. Think about the complexity of everything He has created. Think about the fact that everything God created was good.

The **Glory** of God refers to the visible evidence of God's power as seen in creation and nature, the visible evidence of His wisdom as seen in the order and balance in nature, and the visible evidence of His love as shown in His provision for His creation.

Good, as used in Genesis 1, means without imperfection of any kind.

Omniscient means all-knowing. God has total knowledge of all things past, present and future.

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Questions

2a. What evidence do we have in Genesis 1 that God is good? List the verses that mention God created something good. How many did you find?

2b. List all the things God made, in the order in which He created them. From this list what can you learn about God? (*See Romans 1:20*)

2c. What do the words "according to their kinds" in Genesis 1:11, 12, 21, 24 and 25 mean?

2d. Take a walk this week; write a note about what you can observe about the "glory of God." Then take some time to thank God for three good things He has created for you.

KNOWING GOD THROUGH CREATION Lesson Three

The purpose of this lesson is to discover why God created human beings. The story of the creation of man is found in the first and second chapter in the Holy Bible.

Bible verses from Genesis

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

29 Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.

30 And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground--everything that has the breath of life in it--I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning--the sixth day.

Genesis 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

2 By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.

3 And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

Verses from other books of the Holy Bible

Isaiah 40:13 Who has understood the mind of the LORD, or instructed him as his counselor?

1 John 2:5 But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him.

1 John 4:19 "We love because he first loved us."

Exodus 18:15 Moses answered him, "Because the people come to me to seek God's will.

John 4:24 God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.

Psalms 94:9 "Does he who implanted the ear not hear? Does he who formed the eye not see?"

Colossians 1:16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

James 4:8 Come near to God and He will come near to you.

Definitions and Explanations

“...in our **image**, in our **likeness**,” in Genesis 1:26 means we have been created with some similarity to God.

Spirit indicates that God has immaterial or nonphysical characteristics such as a mind, emotions, and a will. God is a person. These characteristics are each a part of God’s personality. We have been created with a mind, emotions, and a will as well. Through this provision we can have an intimate relationship with God

and He with us.

We are given a mind as human beings “in God’s image” so we can have a true knowledge of God -- knowledge that is greater than just knowing *about* God to actually *knowing* Him and *relating* to Him as a person. **You can *know* Him!**

We are given emotions as human beings “in God’s image” so we can have a true loving relationship with Him. The Holy Bible says that God is love. God has so much love to give that His love caused Him to create us so He could share it! **You can *love* Him!**

We are given a will as human beings “in God’s image” with the ability to make choices and decisions freely on our own, including the choice to obey and love God. We will look at this topic in more detail in the next lesson. **You can *obey* Him!**

God is a Spirit. God does not have a body. The Bible refers to God’s arms (Deut. 33:27), His hand (John 10:29), His feet (Isa.66:1), His eyes (2 Chron. 16:9), His ear (Isa. 59:1), His mouth (Isa. 58:14), His face (Ex. 33:11, 20), and His nostrils (2 Sam. 22:9, 16). Since God does not have a body, these references to body parts simply explain in human terms that God is capable of doing those things that are the functions of the physical part of man.

“All things were created by him and **for him**” means we were created as special beings “in His image” so that God could have a special kind of relationship and fellowship with us. God desires with His whole heart to have fellowship with us. Out of all His creation only man can fulfill that desire. Scripture never describes any other being or creature as being made in God’s image, only human beings. What a privilege is ours to have personal fellowship with the creator of the universe!

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Questions

- 3a. What personal characteristics of God are also reflected in human beings created in the image of God? (See *Isaiah 40:13, I John 2:5 and Exodus 18:15*)

- 3b. Because we are created in God’s image, in what ways can we relate to God? (See *I John 4:19*)

- 3c. Since God is a spirit and does not have a body, what limitations does He have? (See *Psalms 94:9*)

- 3d. Why did God create human beings? (See *Colossians 1:16 and James 4:8*)

- 3e. Since God created us for a special purpose, how are you fulfilling that purpose?

KNOWING GOD THROUGH CREATION Lesson Four

The purpose of this lesson is to discover why God created human beings with a will.

Bible verses from Genesis

Genesis 2:4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created. When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens—

Genesis 2:7-9 The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. ⁸Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. ⁹And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground--trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:10-17 A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. ¹¹The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹²(The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin and onyx are also there.) ¹³The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush. ¹⁴The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Asshur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. ¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

Genesis 2:18-25 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." ¹⁹Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. ²¹So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. ²²Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. ²³The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." ²⁴For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. ²⁵The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Verses from other books of the Holy Bible

Jeremiah 18:1-6 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message." So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. Then the word of the LORD came to me: "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does?" declares the LORD. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.

Job 40:6-8 Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm: "Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. "Would you discredit my justice? Would you condemn me to justify yourself?"

More verses from other books of the Holy Bible

John 14:21 *Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."*

Psalm 40:8 *"I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."*

Definitions and explanations

“...God **commanded**...” means God set boundaries for Adam. (Genesis 2:16, 17) The Creator alone has the authority and the right to set boundaries. God’s boundaries are not set up to punish us but to protect us They are set for our benefit. Adam was fairly warned when God gave him rules for living in the Garden and the consequences of disobedience. God is just.

Justice is a legal term which refers to God’s right and authority over all His creation. It means that what He does is always right. Was it right for God to set boundaries for Adam and Eve and us? Who are we, the created ones, to question a holy God? God’s perfect justice demands perfect obedience. When God told Adam he would surely die (eternal separation from God) for disobedience to His command, He would not be truthful, nor would His authority mean anything if He did not uphold His word. If God is not trustworthy He no longer qualifies to be God.

Man’s **will** refers to his ability to make a choice or decision. God gave Adam a free will to choose to obey or disobey God. He also warned of the consequences of disobedience. God did not create us as robots with no other choice than to obey Him. He gave us a free will. If we had no choice we could not prove our love for God.

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Questions

- 4a. What one rule did God give the first man and woman? (See *Genesis 2:10-17*) In your opinion, what was God’s motivation?
- 4b. Does God have the right to set standards for us? Why? (See *Jeremiah 18:1-6* and *Job 40:6-8*)
- 4c. Why do you think God gives us the choice to obey or disobey Him? (See *John 14:21*)
- 4d. In what ways do you exercise your will with regard to God’s commands? (See *Psalm 40:8*)

KNOWING GOD THROUGH CREATION

Lesson Five

The purpose of this lesson is to discover what sin is and how it started.

Bible verses from Genesis

Genesis 2:15-17 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

Genesis 3:1-6 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Verses from other books of the Holy Bible

Revelation 12:9 The great dragon was hurled down--that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray.

2 Corinthians 11:14 "...Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light."

1 Thessalonians 3:5 For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless.

James 1:13-15 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Nehemiah 9:29 "You warned them to return to your law, but they became arrogant and disobeyed your commands. They sinned against your ordinances, by which a man will live if he obeys them."

James 4:17 Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Isaiah 6:3 "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

Habakkuk 1:13 Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong.

Definitions and Explanations

Holy means morally perfect, pure and set apart from all sin. God is holy. God did not sin, will not sin, and cannot tolerate sin. Because of His unlimited, infinite holiness, no sin is allowed in His presence.

The serpent is identified in the Bible as Satan. Satan is an angel, created by God, who sinned against God. Even angels, like men, have a choice. In his heart he was set on making himself like God. He chose not to submit to the Most High God.

Sin is any attitude or act of disobedience contrary to the expressed will of God or character of God. It might be disobedience (doing what God said not to do) or it might be failing to obey (not doing what God said to do). We have a choice, whether to sin or not. All sin, even though it might involve others, is sin against God. God cannot sin nor does He create evil.

Temptation is the enticement of a person to commit sin. It is not sin to be tempted, but yielding to temptation results in sin. Satan is called the tempter in the Holy Bible.

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Questions

- 5a. Who is the serpent mentioned in Genesis 3:1? (See Revelation 12:9)
- 5b. Describe Satan. (See Genesis 3:1; 2 Corinthians 11:14 and 1 Thessalonians 3:5)
- 5c. Who tempted Adam? Who tempted Eve? (See Genesis 3:1-6)
- 5d. Why should no one say, “God is tempting me?” (See James 1:13-15)
- 5e. How does sin begin? (See James 1:14)
- 5f. What is sin? (See Nehemiah 9:29 and James 4:17)
- 5g. Why is it impossible for God to tolerate sin? (See Isaiah 6:3 and Habakkuk 1:13)
- 5h. Romans 5:12 says, “sin entered the world through one man.” Who was that man?

5i. The Bible says all men sin. Does that include you? (See Romans 3:23)

KNOWING GOD THROUGH CREATION

Lesson Six

The purpose of this lesson is to discover what the penalty for sin is. The account of sin and its penalty is found in the third chapter of the book of Genesis.

Bible verses from Genesis

Genesis 2:17 "you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

Genesis 3:6-7 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her; and he ate it. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" ¹⁰He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." ¹¹And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" ¹²The man said, "The woman you put here with me--she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." ¹⁶To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." ¹⁷To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. ¹⁸It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return." ²⁰Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. ²¹The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

Genesis 3:22-24 And the LORD God said, "The man 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." ²³So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Verses from other books of the Holy Bible

Jeremiah 23:24 Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the LORD. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the LORD.

Genesis 4:7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."

Hebrews 9:22 "... without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."

Definitions and Explanations

Die refers to the loss of either physical or spiritual life or both. God literally told Adam that, "dying they would die." From the moment Adam and Eve sinned they began the process of death. Their bodies began to deteriorate at that moment. They also died spiritually; their soul and spirit were separated from God. The intimate fellowship they had with God was broken. Death is the penalty for sin.

Good and evil stand in contrast to each other. Scripture affirms that God is and does good. The goodness of God is experienced in the goodness of God's creative work. Adam and Eve experienced the goodness of God. Every good thing God created was created for them to enjoy. Even the responsibilities they were given to care for the garden were enjoyable. In addition they enjoyed the goodness of God's presence and fellowship. Adam and Eve tasted God's goodness. By contrast, when they ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they tasted evil.

Evil is all that which is opposed to God and His purposes. When we as human beings choose to disobey God we sin. It is evil. In Genesis, evil and suffering appeared when Adam and Eve sinned. They became aware of their sin and tried to hide from God. Notice how one sin leads to another. First they ate the fruit God had forbidden, and then they refused to admit that sin. They made excuses and blamed each other, the serpent, even God! When Adam said the woman God gave him made him eat the fruit, he was blaming God. And they lied to God by evading the truth. They had tasted evil. They experienced the guilt and shame of sin. Physical suffering and pain and finally death are the consequences of sin. The moment Adam and Eve sinned every good thing God created began to die.

Hid refers to an effort to conceal from the knowledge of others. There is no hiding from God. God is omnipresent.

Omnipresent means present everywhere. Only God is omnipresent.

Shedding of blood refers to the pouring out of blood in sacrifice. God had to slay an animal, shedding its blood, to make garments of skin for Adam and Eve.

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Questions

6a. How did the behavior of Adam and Eve change after they chose to disobey God?
(See Genesis 3:6-21)

6b. Why is it impossible to hide our sin from God? (See Jeremiah 23:24)

6c. What is necessary for forgiveness of sin? (See Hebrews 9:22)

6d. What kind of things do most of us do to cover up our sin?

KNOWING GOD THROUGH CREATION

Lesson Seven

The purpose of this lesson is to discover what the consequences are for sin. The account of sin and its consequences are found in the third chapter of the book of Genesis.

Bible verses from Genesis

Genesis 3:13-21 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." ¹⁶To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." ¹⁷To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. ¹⁸It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return." ²⁰Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. ²¹The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

Genesis 3:22-24 And the LORD God said, "The man 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." ²³So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Verses from other books of the Holy Bible

Romans 5:12 "... sin entered the world through one man (Adam), and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned."

Genesis 5:3 When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth.

Romans 7:18 I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

Romans 6:23 “The wages of sin is death...”

Romans 8:5-8 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

Romans 3:23 “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”

More verses from other books of the Holy Bible

Romans 14:12 So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Definitions and Explanations

Banished means to force to leave or drive away. Adam and Eve were not only banished from the Garden of Eden because of their disobedience to God, more importantly they were banished from fellowship they enjoyed with God in the garden because they sinned. Adam was created in God's image, but that image was flawed by his disobedience.

The **sinful nature** is a perversion of God's original creation, which reflected the image and likeness of God. Adam gained a sinful nature by disobedience, destroying the consciousness of spiritual things and transmitted that sinful nature to his entire race by the law of reproduction by any living thing, “according to their kinds.” Wheat does not produce apples. Tigers do not produce birds. Sinners do not produce saints! Impossible. This sinful nature was passed along by Adam and Eve “in his own likeness” to their descendants and they to their descendants until the present day. You and I have a sinful nature. That is why we sin.

* * * * *

Questions

7a. List the consequences of sinning for Adam and Eve. *(See Genesis 3:16-24)*

7b. What is the sinful nature? *(See Romans 7:18 and Romans 8:5-8)*

7c. How did the entire human race get a sinful nature? *(See Genesis 5:3 and Romans 5:12)*

7d. Why are we responsible for our sin? *(See Romans 3:23 and Romans 14:12)*

7e. What is the end result of our sinful nature? (See Romans 6:23 and Romans 8:8)

7f. Can you give an example from life today where the harmful consequences of sin can be seen?

KNOWING GOD THROUGH CREATION

Lesson Eight

The purpose of this lesson is to discover what God's provision for sin is. God's provision for sin is found throughout the Bible.

Bible verses from Genesis

Genesis 3:9-15 But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me--she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

Genesis 3:21-24 The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. And the LORD God said, "The man 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." So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Verses from other books of the Holy Bible

Nehemiah 9:31 But in your great mercy you did not put an end to them or abandon them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.

Isaiah 54:8 "In a surge of anger I hid my face from you for a moment, but with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you," says the LORD your Redeemer.

Psalm 116:5 The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

Hebrews 9:22 "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."

Leviticus 17:11 For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.

Exodus 12:13 The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.

Definitions and Explanations

Enmity means animosity or malice.

Grace is undeserved acceptance and love received from another, especially the characteristic attitude of God in providing salvation for sinners. Mercy is undeserved withholding of punishment. Grace provides a Savior and draws the sinner to God. God showed His grace to Adam and Eve by four provisions He made for them.

1st God asked them three questions, giving them three chances to confess their disobedience.

1. "Where are you?" Didn't God know where they were? Of course He did. This was their first opportunity to confess their sin and have their fellowship with God restored.
2. "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" This was their second opportunity to confess their sin and have their fellowship with God restored.
3. "What is this you have done?" God is omniscient (all-knowing) and was well aware of what they had done. This was their third opportunity but they rejected God. God still chose to seek them out! Even as with Adam and Eve, God seeks for us to come to Him. That is God's amazing grace.

2nd God promised a redeemer. In Genesis 3:15 God says to the serpent, "I will put enmity between you (the serpent) and the woman (Eve), and between your offspring (Satan) and hers (the redeemer); he (the redeemer) will crush your (Satan's) head, and you (Satan) will strike his (the redeemer's) heel. A wound to the heel may be severe but not fatal. A crushed head would be fatal. God's redeemer will be victorious over sin and death. This promised redeemer is for all mankind.

3rd God made garments of skin, requiring the shedding of blood, evidence of God's requirement for forgiveness of sin. God wanted them to take sin seriously. Only a gracious God can provide an acceptable covering for sin. Fig leaves do not meet God's requirement.

4th God placed a guard to the way to the tree of life. If Adam and Eve had eaten the fruit from the other special tree in the garden of Eden, the tree of life, they would have lived forever in their sinful condition. In His great grace He protected Adam and Eve (and mankind) from eating from the "tree of life" (eternal physical life), which would have caused us to live eternally in our state of sin and guilt with no hope of being restored. This would have sealed our fate into an eternal death; separation forever from God. Imagine living forever as sinners with no possibility of forgiveness. Although they would never have had to face the finality of death, they would have been condemned to a pitiful existence.

A **Redeemer** is one who pays the price for someone else's deliverance from the penalty and guilt of sin.

Atonement refers to the means God established whereby humans could be restored to fellowship with God.

* * * * *

Questions

8a. Hebrews 9:22 says there is no forgiveness of sin without the shedding of blood. How did God demonstrate His grace to Adam and Eve? (*See Genesis 3:21*)

8b. What provision has God made for sin? (*See Leviticus 17:11*)

8c. In what ways has God shown His grace to you?

KNOWING GOD THROUGH CREATION Summary

We have learned a lot about God from the creation account in Genesis, the first book in the Holy Bible. Let's consider what this has to do with us.

First we discovered who created the world, that He is omnipotent, He is Almighty, and that as the Creator He has the authority to reign (rule) in our lives.

Second we discovered what our Creator is like, that He is omniscient, He knows everything about us including our every need, that everything He created was without imperfections of any kind, and, therefore, we can trust Him as one who cares about us.

Third we discovered why God created human beings, that He is a person, that He desires fellowship and that because God is a person, not a force, we can have intimate fellowship with Him, person to person, one on one.

Fourth we discovered why God created human beings with a will, that He is just and has the right to demand perfect obedience, that He does not force us to obey Him, that He desires that we choose to love and obey Him, and He has made it possible for us!

Fifth we discovered what sin is and how it started, that we sin willingly, like Adam, choosing to disobey God, that God is Holy and He will not overlook our sin.

Sixth we discovered what the penalty for sin is, that God is omnipresent, therefore we cannot hide from God, that the penalty for Adam's sin was death, and the penalty for my sin and your sin is likewise death.

Seventh we discovered what the consequences for sin are, that Adam transmitted a sinful nature by the law of reproduction (in his own likeness), that we sin because we have a sinful nature, and that we are responsible before God for our own sin.

Eighth we discovered that God is gracious, that He has provided a plan to forgive us our sin and redeem us from the penalty of sin, that He paid the penalty for sin, and that God chose to provide a way by which we could be restored to perfect fellowship.

God has also given us a choice. Accept His provision and live eternally. Reject His provision of a redeemer and suffer the penalty of sin eternally. God leaves the choice up to us and does not force us to make one choice over the other. We can not blame God for consequences that are caused by our sinful choices, and we do have a choice. We can not lay the blame on Adam. Until we take sin as seriously as God does and understand how it violates God's holiness, we will never experience God's love and forgiveness. God would not be perfect in His justice nor love if He allowed a sinful being to spend eternity in heaven with Him. We deserve death. Anything less than that is God's mercy! Only a gracious God can restore our relationship with Him. Just as Adam could not cover his sin or hide his sin from God, neither can we. There is nothing we can "do" about our sin problem. No matter how hard we try to do right, how good we are, or what we "do" to be right with God, there is no way we can meet God's holy standards. Adam could not and neither can we. Only God, in His great mercy, can forgive our sin.

Learn more about God's love and forgiveness in the next chapter, Knowing God through Jesus.

KNOWING GOD THROUGH CREATION Review Questionnaire

Question numbers refer to the lessons where the question first appeared.

1a. Who is the Creator of the heavens and the earth? *(See Genesis 1:1 and Isaiah 40:28)*

1d. What do the "**Verses from other books of the Bible**" say about the length of God's existence?

1f. What belongs to God? *(See I Timothy 1:17 and I Chronicles 29:11)*

2a. What evidence do we have in Genesis 1 that God is good? List the verses that mention God created something good. How many did you find?

2b. List all the things God made, in the order in which He created them. From this list what can you learn about God? *(See Romans 1:20)*

3b. Because we are created in God's image, in what ways can we relate to God? *(See I John 4:19)*

- 3d. Why did God create human beings? *(See Colossians 1:16 and James 4:8)*
- 4b. Does God have the right to set standards for us? Why? *(See Jeremiah 18:1-6 and Job 40:6-8)*
- 4c. Why do you think God gives us the choice to obey or disobey Him? *(See John 14:21)*
- 5b. Describe Satan. *(See Genesis 3:1; 2 Corinthians 11:14 and 1 Thessalonians 3:5)*
- 5d. Why should no one say, “God is tempting me?” *(See James 1:13-15)*
- 5e. How does sin begin? *(See James 1:14)*
- 5f. What is sin? *(See Nehemiah 9:29 and James 4:17)*
- 5g. Why is it impossible for God to tolerate sin? *(See Isaiah 6:3 and Habakkuk 1:13)*
- 6b. Why is it impossible to hide our sin from God? *(See Jeremiah 23:24)*
- 6c. What is necessary for forgiveness of sin? *(See Hebrews 9:22)*
- 7b. What is the sinful nature? *(See Romans 7:18 and Romans 8:5-8)*
- 7d. Why are we responsible for our sin? *(See Romans 3:23 and Romans 14:12)*

7e. What is the end result of our sinful nature? *(See Romans 6:23 and Romans 8:8)*

8a. Hebrews 9:22 says there is no forgiveness of sin without the shedding of blood. How did God demonstrate His grace to Adam and Eve? *(See Genesis 3:21)*

8b. What provision has God made for sin? *(See Leviticus 17:11)*

Summary. In your opinion what are the most important characteristics of God you have discovered in your study of this chapter?

IF THERE IS ANYTHING IN THIS LESSON YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND CALL THOMAS AT 1-646-462-5232, OR EMAIL INFO@BANGLAMINISTRIES.ORG. MAIL THIS QUESTIONNAIRE TO BANGLA MINISTRIES WORLDWIDE, PO BOX 2844, GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49501.

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S PLEASE SEND CHAPTER 2, KNOWING GOD THROUGH JESUS.