

Life Lessons from Adam and Eve

The story of Adam and Eve found in Genesis 2:15 – 3:13 is also our story and we can learn a lot from them.

In the Beginning – God Said:

Read Genesis 1:26-27 and fill in the missing words from the following Scriptures (New King James Version of the Bible was used):

1. ... "Let ____ make man in Our _____, according to Our _____; let them have _____ over the _____ of the sea, over the _____ of the air, and over the _____, over ____ the earth and over _____ creeping thing that creeps on the earth." (Genesis 1:26)
2. So _____ created man in His _____ image; in the image of _____ He created him; male and female He created _____. (Genesis 1:27)

Reflective Thoughts ...

God is a Holy God who only has righteous thoughts and righteous ways. And this is who He was creating all of mankind to be, starting with Adam and Eve.

He told them who they were created to be – in His image and after His likeness. Which meant they were to have righteous thoughts and righteous ways just like He does.

He told them what they were to do – take "dominion" over all the things of the earth. Everything except people.

God's Instructions

Read Genesis 2:15-17 and fill in the missing words from the following Scriptures (New King James Version of the Bible was used):

1. Then the Lord _____ took the _____ and put him in the _____ of Eden ... (Genesis 2:15)
2. ... the Lord God _____ the man, saying, "Of _____ tree of the garden you _____ freely eat; (Genesis 2:16)
3. But of the tree of the _____ of good and _____ you shall _____ eat, for in the _____ that you eat of it you shall surely _____." (Genesis 2:17)

Reflective Thoughts ...

God gave mankind a freewill from the beginning of creation. Having a freewill means mankind can choose to do what is right or choose to do what is wrong. If you notice in Genesis 2:16 God told Adam he could eat from "every" tree of the garden – this is where his freewill will come into play. He could eat from every tree but if he ate of the tree God told him not to eat of – the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, there would be severe consequences. God does not want robots but people who freely choose of their own freewill to love Him and obey Him. So He had to allow an opportunity for Adam and Eve to exercise their freewill, thus the tree that would allow them to make a choice of obedience or disobedience.

In Genesis 2:9 we are told that God made every tree that is pleasant and good for food. And in Genesis 1:12 we are told that God created trees that yielded fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. God didn't mingle the seed; every seed was pure and could not be both good and evil. So we see the handiwork of God's enemy and ours – the devil. But God knows the tree is there and He warns Adam about it. What the enemy has meant for harm, God will use to allow mankind to exercise his freewill. God wants all mankind to freely choose to love and obey Him and not be forced to do so.

The Choice is Ours

Read Deuteronomy 30:15,19 and fill in the missing words from the following Scriptures (New King James Version of the Bible was used):

1. "See, I have set before _____ today life and _____, death and _____." (Deuteronomy 30:15)
2. "I call _____ and earth as _____ today against _____, that I have _____ before you _____ and death, _____ and cursing; therefore _____ life, that both and your descendants may _____." (Deuteronomy 30:19)

Reflective Thoughts ...

God wants us to know that He wants nothing less than His very best for us. But we can choose to settle for less than His best. He won't take away our freedom of choice but He pleads with us to choose life and blessing and not death and curse. He knows the consequences we will have to endure when we choose disobedience instead of obedience and He wants to spare us from having to reap the results of a wrong choice which leads to death – eternal separation from Him. This is what God offered to Adam and Eve. In all fairness, He had to give them a chance to choose for themselves what they wanted for their lives but He pleads with them to choose wisely. And He continues to plead with all mankind to this very day to choose wisely – our eternity depends on it.

A Liar and Deceiver Comes Calling

Answer the following statements with True or False. (Based on Genesis 1:26 and 3:1-5 – New King James Version of the Bible was used):

1. _____ God created mankind in His image and after His likeness.

2. _____ God created mankind to have dominion over all the earth.
3. _____ The serpent came to pay a friendly little visit.
4. _____ Eve had to listen to the serpent.
5. _____ Adam and Eve had dominion over the serpent.
6. _____ Adam could have protected Eve and ordered the serpent out of the garden.
7. _____ Adam and Eve were like God because they had been created in His image and after His likeness.
8. _____ God was withholding something good from Adam and Eve.
9. _____ God didn't mean it when He said they would die if they ate the fruit.

Reflective Thoughts ...

God is Truth and cannot tell a lie, while the devil is a thief, a liar, and a deceiver. And this is who is trying to convince Adam and Eve that God has lied and is trying to keep a good thing from them. Adam and Eve let the enemy rob them of what God told them that they were and what they were capable of doing. They were already like God having been created in His image and after His likeness. And they had been given dominion over everything on earth. God wanted them to have life and blessing and not have to experience death and curse so He told them not to eat of the tree of the "knowledge" of good and evil. If they had believed in God's love and goodness, they would have told the enemy that they had dominion over him and they wanted him to shut up and leave their garden because they did not want to hear his lies nor his slandering of God. And they could have declared their love for and trust in God and therefore would not disobey Him. Like any good parent, God did not want His children to experience the bad side of life so He warned them against doing what could cause them to experience it. But Adam and Eve had to decide for themselves what they wanted to do with their lives. We have to make that same choice today.

Being Tempted

Read James 1:14-15 and fill in the missing words from the following Scriptures (New King James Version of the Bible was used):

1. But _____ one is _____ when he is _____ away by his own _____ and enticed. (James 1:14)
2. Then, when _____ has conceived, it gives _____ to sin; and _____, when it is full-grown, brings forth _____. (James 1:15)

Reflective Thoughts ...

We can never say the devil made me do it. Yes, he will tempt us and try to get us to do his bidding but

ultimately the choice is up to us. We need to remember who God created us to be and what He wanted us to do. We can depend and rely on the Holy Spirit to help us fulfill God's desire for our lives. He can keep us strong in times of temptation. We just need to ask Him to help us and He will.

God the Father knows the plan He has for our life and it is a plan for good. God the Son has made it possible for the Father's plan to be fulfilled in our lives and God the Holy Spirit will help us to carry out the Father's plan for us to have a good life.

Our Enemy

Fill in the missing words from the following Scripture (New King James Version of the Bible was used):

Jesus tells us in John 10:10 ...

1. "The _____ does not _____ except to _____, and to _____, and to _____."

Reflective Thoughts ...

Jesus is telling us that the serpent did not come for a friendly little visit with Adam and Eve but to steal, kill, and destroy. He wanted what God had given to mankind. He wanted to be a god and have dominion over the earth. Mankind had what he wanted and he would do whatever it took to steal the dominion over the earth they had received and kill God's image and likeness in them and destroy God's good plan for their lives.

Jesus' Temptations

Jesus allowed Himself to be tempted just like Adam and Eve had been tempted but with a totally different outcome.

Read Matthew 4:1-10 and then fill in the missing words from the following Scriptures (New King James Version of the Bible was used):

And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.

1. Now when the _____ came to Him, he said, "____ You are the _____ of God, command that these _____ become _____." (Matthew 4:3)

2. But He _____ and said, "It is _____, Man shall not _____ by bread alone, but by _____ Word that _____ from the mouth of _____." (Matthew 4:4)

3. Then the devil took _____ up into the holy city, set Him on the _____ of the temple, and said to Him, "____ You are the _____ of God, throw Yourself _____ ..." (Matthew 4:5-6)

4. _____ said to him, "It is _____ again, You shall _____ tempt the Lord your

_____ ." (Matthew 4:7)

5. Again the devil took _____ up on an exceedingly high _____, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the _____ and their glory. (Matthew 4:8)

6. And he said to _____, "All these _____ I will _____ You if You fall down and _____ me." (Matthew 4:9)

7. Then _____ said to him, "_____ with you, satan! For it is _____, you shall _____ the Lord your _____ and _____ only you shall _____." (Matthew 4:10)

Reflective Thoughts ...

Jesus shows us how to deal with the tempter when he comes calling. He again and again said – it is written. He used the Word of God to overcome the tempter because He absolutely believed what God had said, while Adam and Eve allowed doubt to be placed in their minds about what God had said. The tempter tried to place doubt into Jesus' mind with the word "if." If – You are the Son of God. But Jesus was confident as to who He was so the tempter couldn't get any where with Him using this tactic.

The tempter said he could give the world to Jesus. But Jesus knew He had been manifested for the purpose of destroying the works of the devil (see 1 John 3:8) so the devil was not going to have anything to give. Jesus knows why He has come, but apparently the devil doesn't. But Jesus knows who the tempter is – a thief, a liar, a deceiver, and a defeated foe, so He tells him to get away from Him.

We need to remember this when the tempter comes calling on us and tell him to get away from us too. Don't ever listen to a thief, a liar, a deceiver, and a defeated foe.

Ignore the Temptations of the World

Read 1 John 2:16-17 and fill in the missing words from the following Scriptures (New King James Version of the Bible was used):

1. ... the _____ of the flesh, the _____ of the eyes, and the _____ of life - is not of the _____ but is of the _____. (1 John 2:16)

2. And the _____ is passing _____, and the _____ of it; but he who _____ the Will of God _____ forever. (1 John 2:17)

Answer the following questions Yes or No:

1. _____ Did Adam and Eve lust after the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

2. _____ Can something look good to us but be very deadly for us?
3. _____ Does God try to warn us about doing something that could cause us great harm?
4. _____ Should we pay attention to the worldly temptations that call out to us?
5. _____ Is giving into a small temptation harmless?
6. _____ Can the Word of God help us resist the tempter and his temptations?

Reflective Thoughts ...

The world is full of all sorts of temptations. Some we know immediately are harmful while others seem harmless but are still deadly. Giving into what looks like just a small temptation can lead to more serious temptations. When the tempter sees that we are willing to compromise even just a little bit, he will mark us as a candidate for bigger temptations. When we stay in God's Word, the Holy Spirit can make us aware of where we have compromised and what we need to do to stay out of harm's way. He will help us know how to fight the temptations that come to us and not give in to them.

Adam and Eve's mistake was in not asking God's help in dealing with the serpent. They could have immediately called out to God and told Him what was happening. He would have helped them handle the situation. We must remember that!

Resisting Temptation

Read 1 Corinthians 10:13; James 1:13-14; James 4:7; Psalm 119:105; Psalm 119:11 and fill in the missing words from the following Scriptures (New King James Version of the Bible was used):

1. No _____ has overtaken _____ except such as is _____ to man; But _____ is _____, who will _____ allow you to be _____ beyond what you are _____, but with the _____ will also make the _____ of escape, that you _____ be able to _____ it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)
2. Let no one _____ when he is _____, "I am tempted by _____"; for God cannot be _____ by evil, nor does _____ Himself _____ anyone. (James 1:13)
3. But each one is _____ when he is _____ away by his own _____ and _____ . (James 1:14)
4. Therefore _____ to God. _____ the devil and he will _____ from you. (James 4:7)
5. Your Word is a _____ to my feet and a _____ to my path. (Psalm 119:105)

6. Your _____ I have hidden in my _____, that I might _____ sin against _____. (Psalm 119:11)

Reflective Thoughts ...

God is always available to help us deal with any temptations that come our way. If we store His Word in our hearts it will be a quick check of what is wrong and what is right in God's sight.

Disobedience Revealed

Read Genesis 3:6-7 and fill in the missing words from the following Scriptures (New King James Version of the Bible was used):

1. So when the _____ saw that the tree was good for _____, that it was pleasant to the _____, and a tree desirable to make one _____, she took of its _____ and ate. She also gave to her _____ with her, and he _____.(Genesis 3:6)

2. Then the _____ of both of them were _____, and they knew that they were _____; and they sewed fig leaves _____ and made themselves _____. (Genesis 3:7)

Reflective Thoughts ...

Adam and Eve were tempted by the three lusts that are most common to all mankind:

Lust of the flesh – good for food

Lust of the eyes – pleasant to the eyes

Pride of Life – make one wise

But what a price they paid for giving into those temptations. In Genesis 2:25 it says, "And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed." Before they sinned they could look at one another without shame because there wasn't any sin in them to make them ashamed of what they saw. But once they had sinned, when they looked at one another they knew their bodies had changed and they saw the naked truth of their sinfulness in one another and they were ashamed. Sin always brings shame. And disobedience will be revealed.

Can't Hide from God

Read Genesis 3:8-11 and then fill in the missing words from the following Scriptures (New King James Version of the Bible was used):

1. And they _____ the sound of the Lord God _____ in the garden in the cool of the _____, and Adam and his wife _____ themselves from the _____ of the Lord God among the trees of

the _____. (Genesis 3:8)

2. Then the Lord God _____ to Adam and _____ to him, " _____ are you?" (Genesis 3:9)

3. So he said, "I heard Your _____ in the garden, and I was _____ because I was _____ and I _____ myself." (Genesis 3:10)

4. And He said, " _____ told you that you _____ naked? Have you _____ from the tree of which I _____ you that you should _____ eat?" (Genesis 3:11)

Reflective Thoughts ...

God knew where Adam was, you can't hide from God. But God wanted Adam to face up to where his disobedience had gotten him. God already knew what had happened, He is giving Adam an opportunity to confess his disobedience and repent of disobeying God. Being naked means to become aware of being in a state of sinfulness before God and others. When sin is exposed it brings shame. Sin caused them to die spiritually and then their bodies changed and exposed their disobedient state. They tried to cover it up but they couldn't fool God.

God's Redemption Plan

Read Genesis 3:14-15 and fill in the missing words from the following Scriptures (New King James Version of the Bible was used):

So the Lord God said to the serpent ...

1. "Because _____ have done _____, you are _____ more than _____ cattle, and more than _____ beast of the field; on your _____ you shall go, and you shall eat _____ all the days of your life. (Genesis 3:14)

2. And I will put _____ between you and the _____ and _____ your _____ and her Seed; He shall bruise your _____, and you shall bruise His _____." (Genesis 3:15)

Reflective Thoughts ...

Genesis 3:21 says the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed Adam and Eve. This was to cover the changes that had happened to their bodies because of their sin, God had to take the life of an innocent animal to cover their sin. This was symbolic of the Lamb of God without spot or blemish that would give His life to redeem mankind from their sinful state and end their shame.

God had not lied – eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil had brought spiritual death

and a changed body that would die. Mankind could not undo what had been done, but God could and He would.

The Word of God says:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

"For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil." 1 John 3:8.

Jesus said from the cross: "It is finished!" (John 19:30). He had completed what He had come to do – destroy the works of the devil and redeem mankind from sin and shame.

"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." 2 Corinthians 5:21.

"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness." Isaiah 61:10.