

ONE LARGE GROUP

PRAYER:

PURPOSE: Provide an overview of what the Bible says about: God, man, marriage, and parenting

ASSUMPTIONS:

- God exists & He is sovereign (He is alive & active)
- God’s word is truth (God revealed the Bible for our benefit & guidance)
- The bible is all we need to understand our world, and live to please God. This allows us to help our families, neighbors, and country

THEME: “Two Paths”

- Every day we decide to either obey God or disobey (honor God or self?)
- There are consequences to each path (broad road/narrow road)

LESSON 1 REVIEW:

- God is our creator and ruler
- God’s character is seen in His creation
- God, as creator, has the right to set the rules for man
- Man is created, and is religious by design (he is a worshiper)
- Man will be judged by God

OBJECTIVES OF LESSON 2: (Sin – The Bad News)

- Define sin
- Examine the cause and consequences of man’s sin
- Identify Satan’s strategy & our weakness (be prepared for Satan’s attack)
Note: Patton read Rommel’s book, knew his strategy, and beat him

BIBLE:

Time between original writing and our oldest text:

- Aristotle 1400 years
- Caesar 1000 years
- Plato 1200 years
- New Testament 25-50 years (i.e. 1960-1985)

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Conclusions

- The text of the Bible is much better preserved than any ancient text
- We can be confident that the text preserves the original words

Questions

- Do you believe we have accurate texts of works by Aristotle, Caesar, and Plato?
- If so, why would you question the accuracy of the Bible?

SIN (a historical event, real people, real event)

Q – What is sin? Where and how did it start?

- Only the Bible has the answer
- God answers man’s biggest questions
- Answers to the big questions are at the beginning of the Bible (Genesis – origin of the universe, man, sin, nations, languages, Israel, marriage, why we wear clothes, etc.)

Q – What was the condition of God’s original creation? (very good)

Gen 1:31 (2) Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was *very good*. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Notes:

- The six-days of creation is discussed in Genesis 1:1-31
- The original creation was very good (1:31)
- God does everything very well
 - There are no mistakes
 - He doesn’t say oops

Q – What if you could do everything you wanted, except eat a certain fruit?

- That was the situation with Adam & Eve (in image of God, given everything, in charge, all needs provided, work easy & enjoyable)

Q – What was the only restriction on Adam & Eve?

Gen 2:15-17 (2) Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but *of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat*, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

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Notes:

- Don’t eat of the tree – you will surely die
- Genesis chapter two gives more details regarding the six days of creation
- The oldest profession is gardening (contrary to popular opinion)

Q – How burdensome was this commandment? Not at all burdensome

Q – How well did Adam & Eve do in keeping this one simple commandment?

Gen 3:1-19 (3) Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, “*You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?*” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; “But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, “*You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.*” Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. “For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was *good for food*, that it was *pleasant to the eyes*, and a tree *desirable to make one wise*, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?” So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.” And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?” Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.” And 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, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” To the woman He said: “I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.” Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, You shall not eat of it”: “Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return.”

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Note: (A&E, who were perfect, could not keep this one simple commandment)

- Adam & Eve did not think it was strange to be talking with a serpent. We don't know why. Perhaps it was because everything was new to them, they had only been there a short time, and no other people existed.

SMALL GROUPS (each group reviews the following material)

Opening Prayer – Note: the most important verses are in bold (if short of time)

Review Homework (ask the following questions)

- What did you learn? Are you now thinking differently?
- Do you understand God better? Do you understand yourself better?
- Are you resolved to behave differently?

Recite Prior Memory Verse: (Gen 1:1)

Q – What was Satan's strategy?

- Distort God's word (did God say...?, intentional, not a question from curiosity)
- Deny God's word (Note: denied exact wording of command – "surely not")
- Question God's character (alternate interpretation of what God meant)
 - Make god less than He is (threatened, jealous, selfish, untrustworthy)
 - Make man more than he is (independent, in charge, own measure of right)
- Encourage disobedience
- Uses same strategy through time (1 Jn 2:15-16, Mt 4:1-11)

1 Jn 2:15-16 (1194) Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - is not of the Father but is of the world.

Examples of each area of temptation:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Examples</u>	<u>Eve's Heart</u>
Flesh:	drugs, alcohol, sex, food, etc.	(good for food)
Eyes:	things, possessions, experiences, vacations	(pleasant to eyes)
Pride:	job, car, house, degrees, titles, awards, etc.	(desired to become wise)

Mt 4:3,6,8-9 (933)... command that these stones become bread (flesh)...throw Yourself down (pride)...all the kingdoms...these things I will give You (eyes)...

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Q – What evils do we see in Satan?

Jn 8:44 (1043) You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was *a murderer from the beginning*, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is *a liar and the father of it*.

Rev 12:9 (1208) So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the devil and Satan, *who deceives the whole world*; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Answers:

- Liar (lied to Adam & Eve, Jn 8:44) – this is the 1st lie ever!
- Murderer (murdered Adam & Eve, along with all mankind, Jn 8:44)
- Deceiver (Rev 12:9)

Notes:

- Lusts are strong desires – they can be a desire for good things or evil things
- We are attacked in our strong desires related to the flesh, mind & ego
- We know our weaknesses and the enemies strategy (be prepared)
- Satan reversed God’s created order:
 - Creation (serpent) ruled over the rulers (Adam & Eve)
 - Adam abdicated his authority & responsibility as a husband
 - Adam & Eve did not image/reflect God (they disobeyed God)

Conclusions:

- Adam & Eve were presented with a choice
 - Believe & obey God, or
 - Believe & obey Satan
- Their choice had consequences for all of mankind
- We are given similar choices every day (do we believe God or Satan?)
- God’s word is in the Bible (roadmap) – do we believe the Bible?

Questions:

- Do we want to know what God says?
- Do we want to know the truth?
- Do we want to follow the example of Adam & Eve?

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Q – How did Eve reply to Satan? (refer to Gen 2:15-17 & 3:1-19)

- Added to God’s word (not touch)
- Subtracted from God’s word (omitted “surely”, emphasis in original)

Q – What does God say about adding to/subtracting from His word?

Dt 4:2 (197) You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.

Dt 12:32 (209) Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.

Rev 22:18-19 (1217) For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will shall take away his part from the book of life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Q – What do these verses teach?

- Everyone should exercise caution when dealing with God’s word
 - Share Scripture accurately
 - Use a reliable translation (ESV, NASB, NKJV)
 - Word for word, not dynamic equivalent

Q – What was Eve’s response to Satan (what did she do)?

- She considered and then ate the fruit.
- This was not a spur of the moment decision
- Eve reasoned through this decision (human reason can be faulty)

Q – What does this teach us about man’s reasoning ability?

- Our reasoning can lead us astray. It is unreliable.
- Our reasoning must be evaluated & directed by God’s word

Prov 14:12 (654) There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

Q – What were Eve’s expectations when she ate the fruit?

- Nutritious (good for food)
- Fun/enjoyable (a delight to the eyes)
- Beneficial (increase in knowledge, become like God)

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Note: These may have seemed like good things, but they required disobeying God

Q – Did things turn out the way Eve expected?

- Not at all
- Satan always deceives, he can’t deliver
 - A&E were already like God (made in His image)
 - When they disobeyed they became like Satan

Q – Why did Eve sin?

1 Tim 2:14 (1163) And Adam was not deceived, but *the woman being deceived*, fell into transgression.

Ja 1:14-15 (1183) But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

Answers:

- She was deceived (Satan lied) & She was lured by her own desires

Q – What was Adam’s action? He ate the fruit also.

Q – What was Adam & Eve’s attitude toward God & His word?

- They treated God’s word lightly

Q – What was God’s response?

- He was patient
- God gave them opportunity for confession & repentance
- God pronounced appropriate judgment

Q – What were some of the results of Adam & Eve’s sin?

- Immediate
 - Fear
 - Guilt
 - Conflict
 - Blame shifting
 - Broken relationships (God/man, man/man, man/animal)
 - Driven from the Garden of Eden
 - Loss of tree of life (**Note:** A&E could have had eternal life)
 - Loss of close daily contact with God

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- Long-term
 - All mankind
 - Physical death
 - Disease
 - Aging
 - Pain
 - Suffering
 - Spiritual death (transferred to Satan’s kingdom)
 - Sin nature – disobedient, selfish, idolater, lusts,...
 - Men
 - Work more difficult
 - Desire to rule over wife (marriage problems, more later)
 - Women
 - Pain in childbirth
 - Desire to rule over husband (cp. 4:7, Cain’s sin)
 - Creation
 - Thorns & thistles
 - Loss of productivity
 - Carnivores
 - Venom
 - Natural disasters (floods, tsunamis, EQ’s, tornados, etc.)
 - Animals fear man
 - Mutations

Q – Is sin just a personal matter?

- No, A&E’s sin affected all of mankind
- Our sin affects those closest to us

Ro 5:12 (1104) Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned -

Q – Is there such a thing as just a small sin? No

- Eating the fruit of a specific tree may seem very small to us, but any disobedience to God’s commands is a major offense.
- Adam and Eve’s sin had disastrous consequences for all mankind

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Q – Does sin just affect the sinner? No

- Abortion affects many more than just the mother
 - The baby dies
 - The couple’s parents lose a grandchild
 - Siblings and cousins are given an evil example to model
- Alcohol/drugs/sex – notable scandals through time

Q – When and where did Adam & Eve’s sin begin?

- When – prior to eating the fruit
- Where – in their heart
 - They considered God’s counsel & Satan’s counsel prior to eating
 - Their sin was deliberate, not impulsive

Prov 4:23 (647) *Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.*

Ps 81:11-15 (611) But My people would not heed My voice, and Israel would have none of Me. So I *gave them over to their own stubborn heart*, to walk in their own counsels. Oh, that My people would *walk in My ways*, I would soon subdue their enemies, and turn My hand against their adversaries. The haters of the Lord would pretend submission to Him, but their fate would endure forever.

Mt 5:27-28 (935) You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not commit adultery.” “But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already *committed adultery with her in his heart.*”

Mt 15:18-20 (948) But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For *out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies*. These are the things which defile a man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man.

Q – What are man’s choices/consequences (2 paths)

- Right – listen to Christ, become like Christ, spend eternity with Christ
- Wrong – listen to Satan, become like Satan, spend eternity with Satan

Note: Everyone is a disciple: either a disciple of Christ or a disciple of Satan

Q – Who do you want to follow?

- Your creator (God)?, or
- Your enemy & destroyer (Satan)?

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Lessons:

- God is sovereign & has a plan (creation, flood, salvation, church, new earth)
- God's word is true (our only truth)
- God can be trusted & his word can be trusted
- Satan is a liar and a murderer (sin is deceptive)
- Sin begins with a heart attitude in rebellion against God
- Obedience to God is blessed
- Disobedience to God is punished

HOMEWORK: (explain the homework assignment)

- Study Genesis 39:7-12 & 2 Samuel 11:1-4
 - Compare the events in Joseph’s and David’s lives
 - What were the surrounding circumstances?
 - What were their respective attitudes?
 - What were their resulting actions?
 - Can you identify what was happening in their heart?
 - Why do you think these two men responded in different ways to a similar situation?
- Identify the heart sin/idols behind your major problems in life
 - Review lesson 1 homework questions for insight
 - Know your weaknesses in order to be prepared

Memory Verse:

- Repeat verses as a group
- Review last week’s verse (Gen 1:1)
- Recite this week’s verse

Prov 4:23 (647) Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.

Memory Hint: Take one verse at a time. Repeat, repeat, repeat every chance you get. Develop a routine every morning, noon, and night.

Prayer Time:

- Prayer requests
- Prayer