

INTERACTIVE TEACHING/LEARNING GUIDE Week 2

SESSION TITLE: "Fall: What Went Wrong"

FOCAL PASSAGE: (Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-19, 24)

Central Teaching/Learning Aim: To help the learner examine the fall of man, the result of the fall and to develop a strategy to live in a fallen world.

I. Creating Interest in the Series (Hook)

A. Display and ask the following question:

"What evidence have you observed in recent weeks that we live in a fallen world?"

Allow time for responses.

Bring some pictures from the newspaper or magazine that demonstrate a fallen world. (You could also show these examples on the Power Point.)

Ask – Why do bad things happen to Christ-followers? (Allow time for responses)

State – It is due to living in a fallen world which is traced all the way back to Adam and Eve.

Share the following illustration:

In autumn 2002, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, a priceless 15th century marble statue of Adam toppled and shattered while no one was in the room. Although vandalism was initially suspected, curators determined that the life-sized Venetian sculpture "buckled of its own accord" said *Time* magazine.

"It will take a great deal of time and skill, but the piece can be restored," the museum's director said.

"Museum to mend shattered statue," BBC News (10-10-02)

Adam and Eve did "buckle on their own accord." They had everything but still chose to sin.

State – Today we are going to discuss the fall of man, the result and the strategy for living in a fallen world.

B. Optional Method – Display a picture of football great Reggie White. (You could also show a clip of Reggie in action.) Recently Reggie White known as the "Minister of Defense" died in his sleep. Incredible testimonies about this man of God were shared all across network and cable TV. People praised him for all he

did off the field more than on the field. The basic message said about Reggie was, if anybody was ready for heaven Reggie was, he did so much good on earth.

Unfortunately, nobody can live good enough to make it to heaven.

Since the fall of man, mankind has been corrupt.

Share the following illustration:

Perhaps belief in the biblical doctrine of depravity is making a comeback. Even before the September 11 attack on America, a *Newsweek* cover story focused on the human capacity for evil. Author Sharon Begley writes:

In their search for the nature and roots of evil, scholars from fields as diverse as sociology, psychology, philosophy and theology are reaching a...chilling conclusion. Most people do have the capacity for horrific evil, they say: the traits of temperament and character from which evil springs are as common as flies on carrion. Psychologist Robert I. Simon, director of the program of Psychiatry and Law at Georgetown University School of Medicine, says, "The capacity for evil is a human universal."

Sharon Begley, "The Roots of Evil," *Newsweek* (5-21-01), pp. 31-32

Man's only hope is salvation and forgiveness through Christ.

State – Today we are going to discuss the fall of man, the result and the strategy for living in a fallen world.

C. Optional Method – Movie Clip "I, Robot"

Start: 1:30:15

Stop: 1:31:45

DVD Chapter: 33

Synopsis: In this scene a computer decides she is smarter than her creator. She decides to take over, sacrificing some humans.

Ask – Why did the computer think she was smarter than the humans? How is her decision similar to what Adam and Eve did in the garden?

State – Humans have been trying to outsmart God since Adam and Eve. This is our downfall.

State – Today we are going to discuss the fall of man, the result and the strategy for living in a fallen world.

II. Book

- A. Utilize the discussion guide to examine the Scripture passages.

III. Look

- A. Place members into groups and have them discuss the group assignment questions.

IV. Took

- A. **Object Lesson** - You will need a volunteer, a blanket and a sign that says "God" on it.

This activity demonstrates that sin and guilt have a remarkable way of causing people to walk in confusion.

Arrange for a volunteer to come to the front of the room with you. Tell the class that this person represents someone who has done something really bad, someone whose sin has kept him or her from seeing God clearly.

Say: If you continue in sin, you will never reach the potential God has given you.

Explain to the congregation that you are going to cover this person's head and shoulders with a blanket and encourage him or her to find God. Bring out a sign that has the word "God" written or painted on it.

Say: After I've covered this person with a blanket, I'll place the sign somewhere in the room. The volunteer will listen to you as you shout instructions about where to find the sign. The task will be difficult because you can choose to either tell the truth or to lie about the sign's location.

Place the sign somewhere in the room, and have people in the class begin shouting their instructions. The volunteer will undoubtedly struggle to no avail through this confusing process. After a short time, lift the blanket, and release the person to find the sign. Applaud the volunteer, and thank him or her for participating.

Ask what point the activity made.

When we are covered by a blanket of guilt and sin, we are tempted to listen to everyone. As a result, we become self-focused and confused. Confessing our sins to God, however, removes the blanket of sin and releases us from darkness and confusion. We can then see God clearly once again and pursue him with passion.

You may want to ask the class to respond to the following questions:

What does guilt have to do to your ability to listen to God?

What are the voices that you are tempted to listen to when guilt is in your life?

How can we better "tune in" to God?

State - Let's live a life of confession to stay in redemptive holy fellowship with God. Close in prayer.

B. Optional Method – Share the following illustration:

A Minnesota motorcyclist opened the throttle and possibly set an informal record for the fastest speeding ticket in Minnesota's history. Two motorcyclists were racing on a highway in southeastern Minnesota unaware that a State Patrol plane was watching overhead. When one of the riders shot forward, the pilot, Al Loney, checked the motorcycle's speed with a stopwatch. Loney timed the racer through a quarter mile section of highway. The motorcycle covered the distance in 4.39 seconds, equaling 205 miles per hour. Loney said, "I was in total disbelief. I had to double check my watch because in 27 years I'd never seen anything move that fast."

Although no official records are kept, authorities say it was the fastest ticket ever written in the state. Loney radioed a ground-based cruiser who intercepted the motorcyclists and arrested the faster rider. In addition to a ticket for 140 miles per hour above the posted speed limit, the rider was arrested on charges of driving without a motorcycle license and reckless driving. Kathy Swanson of the Office of Traffic Safety said unless the rider was wearing the kind of protective gear worn by professional racers, he was courting death at 200 mph. She added, "I'm not entirely sure what would happen if you crashed at 200 miles per hour. It wouldn't be pretty that's for sure."

--Associated Press, Minn. Trooper Writes 205 Mph Ticket, September 21, 2004.

State – I am sure that this motorcyclist did not get on his bike one day and decide to go 205 MPH. He had probably sped over the years, gradually wanting to go faster and faster to satisfy his desire. Sin is like that. It can start small and seem insignificant until one day we look up and our lives are in grave danger like going 205 MPH on a motorcycle.

Let's confess our sins and live to worship and obey God.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE
(Teacher's Copy)**

1. What was man's role in the garden before the fall? (Gen. 2:15)
(He was to worship and obey God.)
2. How did Satan tempt Eve in the garden?
 - a. (Gen. 3:1) **He questioned the Word of God.**
 - b. (Gen. 3:4) **He denied God's word.**
 - c. (Gen. 3:5) **He distorted God's word.**
3. How/when do you...
 - a. Question the Word of God? _____
 - b. Deny the Word of God? _____
 - c. Distort the Word of God? _____
4. In what 3 ways did Eve fall to Satan's temptations? (Gen. 3:5-6) See also (1 John 2:16).
 - a. **The pride of life – "to make one wise".**
 - b. **The lust of the flesh – "good for food".**
 - c. **The lust of the eyes – "a delight to the eyes".**
5. What was Adam's role in the fall? (v. 6)
(He was weak and followed along. He did not lead out in obedience.)
6. What was Adam and Eve's initial reaction when they realized what they had done? (v. 7)
(They felt shame for the first time.)
7. What condition is your spiritual walk in, when you commit sin over and over and no longer feel shame?
8. After being exposed by God of his sin, how did Adam respond? (vs. 10-13)
 - a. **(v. 10) First he told of a symptom of his sin.**
 - b. **(v. 12) Then he cast blame on God and Eve.**
 - c. **(v. 13) He confessed his personal sin.**
9. How did Eve respond? (v. 13)
 - a. **First she blamed the serpent.**
 - b. **She confessed her personal sin.**
10. When have you cried "the devil made me do it"?
11. What was God's judgment for sin?

Scripture	Judgment
(Gen. 3:14-15)	Perpetual conflict
(Gen. 3:16)	Pain in childbearing and male domination over her
(Gen. 3:17-19)	Curse of the Lord making it difficult to survive

12. What was the purpose of God guarding the "Tree of Life" in (v. 24)?
(To keep them from eating which would have enabled them to live forever in their fallen condition.)

**DISCUSSION GUIDE
(Student's Copy)**

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 - a. (Gen. 3:1) _____
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 - a. (v. 10) _____
 - b. (v. 12) _____
 - c. (v. 13) _____
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 - a. _____
 - b. _____
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(Gen. 3:17-19)	

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Group Assignments

Discuss the following questions:

1. If you were talking to a skeptic how would you answer this question? "If God is a God of love and is all powerful and wants the best for His children, why do bad things happen to good people?"
2. Discuss a strategy for surviving in a fallen world. How do you maintain hope? How do you stay obedient and worshipful before God?

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THE Word For The Week

"Flood: When God Sees Sin"

(Genesis 6:5-9:17)

Monday – Read Genesis 6:5-10

- God said after the creation that it was good or very good (Gen. 1:24, 32). What went wrong?
- Why do you think the actions and heart of man "grieve" God?
- What does it mean that God was "grieved" that He had made man?
- Do you grieve (experience emotional pain, weakness, or feel regret concerning a past action) over the evil being expressed in your society and around the world? When should you grieve over your own past actions?
- Do your actions "find favor with God?"
- On what basis does Noah find favor with God and how could you apply that to your own life (v. 9)?

Tuesday – Read Genesis 6:11-7:16

- Does 6:11-12 give a clear basis for God's decision in 6:7?
- Throughout this narrative God speaks (ten times in 6:5-9:17). God gives clear directions to Noah (6:13-21) along with a clear promise (v. 18). How does the written Word of God give you clear direction and promises?
- How would this relate to "finding favor with God?"
- What can you learn from Noah's response to God's directions (6:22 and 7:5)?

Wednesday – Read Genesis 7:17-8:7

- Once Noah was in the Ark with his family, how do you think he felt?
- Have you ever made a decision that put you in a similar situation?
- How does God "come through" for Noah (8:1)?
- If you are facing a decision that may "isolate" you from others in order to honor God, based on God's response to Noah's obedience, how will God respond to you?
- Will you resolve to obey God in all that He commands you and will you trust that He will "remember" you?
- After making that resolve to obey God, share this decision with a small group or close friend and have them pray for you to follow through.

Thursday – Read Genesis 8:8-22

- Surely Noah was restless to get off the boat, but he waited (8:10, 12). What was Noah waiting for (8:15)?
- Do you wait patiently even when you think it "might be" time to act? Why or why not?
- How would your view of God affect your ability to "wait?"
- How did Noah respond to God's deliverance (v. 20)?
- Are you faithful to worship God (through sacrifice or memorials) when He delivers you?
- Think about a significant time of God's provision in your life. If you have not appropriately thanked God, do something "tangible" to thank God?

Friday – Read Genesis 9:1-17

- What does this covenant stipulate from man's side and from God's side (vs. 1-7)?
- What does God add to what He had told Adam (Gen. 1:28-30)? Why?
- Who is the one establishing the covenant (vs. 8-11)?
- How might this affect the covenant's success (vs. 15-16)?
- Who does the promise include?
- When you see a rainbow today, how does it make you feel? How should it make you feel and why?

Ancient/Future - A Journey through Genesis

"Fall: What went wrong"

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-19, 24

(Exegetical . . . What it meant Israel back THEN)

**THE LORD GOD'S RESPONSE TO THE WOMAN'S AND MAN'S
SINFUL DISOBEDIENCE TO HIS WORD OF DISCIPLINE,
FOLLOWING THE SERPENT'S TEMPTATION TO DOUBT
GOD'S WORD AND CHARACTER,
SOUGHT THE SINNERS' CONFESSIONS, BUT ALSO PROVIDED
A WAY OF HOPE/REDEMPTION/PROTECTION.**

- I. The garden into which the LORD God placed the man offered/demanded discipline, (2:8b, 15-17).
Note: Moses' use of "placed" in verse 15 indicates a place of safety and relationship. Adam was in a place where he could "rest" and where he could commune with God. See *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, p. 31.
 - A. The garden's inhabitant was the man the LORD God had formed, (8b).
 - B. The garden's discipline included/demanded worship and obedience, (15-17).
 1. The garden's discipline included worship and obedience, (15).
Note: The terms often translated "to tend/keep" would better be "to worship/obey." The actual "work" came after the fall (see 3:17, 23). See Ross, *Creation and Blessing*, p. 124 and Sailhamer, *The Pentateuch as Narrative*, pp. 100-101. Not the ground, but God was Adam's pre-fall focus.
 2. The garden's discipline included the prohibition of not eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, (16-17).
 - a) The prohibition of no eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil contrasted with the provision of the other trees in the garden, (16).
 - b) The result of disobeying the prohibition was certain death, (17).
- II. The response of the woman to the temptation to doubt God's word and character along with an awareness of the fruit's delightful benefits, and [the response] of the man to the woman's giving him the fruit, was disobedience (to the discipline of 2:16-17) in eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, (3:1-6).
 - A. The question of the crafty serpent cast doubt upon the Word of God, (1).
 - B. The inaccurate paraphrase of the woman changed the Word of God, (2-3).
 1. The woman's paraphrase deleted "freely" from God's allowance.
 2. The woman's paraphrase added "and you must not touch it" to God's allowance.
 3. The woman's paraphrase weakened "you will surely die" to "lest you die."
 - C. The serpent's denial of God's Word cast doubt upon the character of God, (4-5).
 1. The serpent's denial of God's Word was absolute denial, (4).
 2. The serpent's denial questioned God's good integrity in prohibiting the fruit, (5).
 - D. The woman's sensual focus upon the forbidden fruit resulted in rapid disobedience, (6).
 1. The woman's focus shifted from God's word to the "delights" of the fruit.
 2. The result of shifting focus away from God's word was rapid disobedience.

- III. The result of disobeying God's prohibition, because of doubt, lust, and willful choice was an experiential knowledge of evil with the consequential loss of naked shamelessness (see 2:25), (3:7).
 - A. The result of disobeying God's prohibition was an experiential knowledge of evil.
 - B. The result of an experiential knowledge of evil was the consequent loss of naked shamefulness.
- IV. The response of both the man and the woman to God's gracious interrogation was initially blame, but eventually confession, (8-13).
 - A. The reason the man and his wife hid from God in a self-imposed exile among the trees of the garden when they heard God walking in the garden was because they were ashamed of their total nakedness before him, (8).
 - B. God's gracious interrogation of the man desired man's confession of sin, (9 & 11).
 - C. The response of the man to God's gracious interrogation was acknowledgment of the symptom, assessment of blame, and confession of sin, (10-12).
 - 1. The man's first acknowledgment was merely to the symptom of his sin, (10).
 - 2. The man's next strategy was to blame God for the woman who led him into sin, (12).
 - 3. The man's final acknowledgment was of his personal sin, "I ate," (13).
 - D. God's gracious interrogation of the woman desired the woman's confession of sin, (13a).
 - E. The response of the woman to God's gracious interrogation was assessment of blame and confession of sin (13b).
 - 1. The woman's first strategy was to blame the serpent who tempted her to sin, (13b).
 - 2. The woman's final acknowledgment was of her personal sin, "I ate," (13b).
- V. The Lord God's oracles of judgment upon the serpent, the woman, and the man promised not only the undesirable consequences of sin, but also the future hope of blessing, (14-19).
 - A. The result of the serpent's deception was the Lord God's curse of perpetual conflict between good and evil until the seed of the woman triumphed, (14-15).
 - B. The result of the woman's being deceived was the Lord God's oracle that increased her pain in childbearing/childrearing and permitted male domination over her, (16).
 - C. The result of the man's listening to his wife resulting in his sin of eating the forbidden fruit was the Lord God's oracle cursing the land so as to make human survival a painful experience to be relieved ultimately by death, (17-19).
- VI. God's preventing the return of the man and the woman to Eden (a God-imposed exile) kept them from eating of the tree of life which would have enabled them to live forever in their fallen condition, (24).

(Theological . . . What it means to believers ALWAYS)
GOD'S RIGHTEOUS GRACE TOWARD SINNERS
PROVIDES FOR THEIR RESTORATION.

- I. Enjoying God's bountiful provision requires obedient service, (2:8b, 15-17).
- II. Doubting God's word and character leads to disobedience, (3:1-6).

- III. Sin against God sacrifices shameless innocence, (3:7, contrast 2:25).
- IV. The shame of guilt forces sinners to banish themselves from God's presence, (7-8).
- V. God's appeal to sinners seeks their confession of personal sin, (9, 11, 13).
- VI. God's judgment of sin includes grace as well as justice, (14-19).
 - A. Sin's consequences include the present conflict between good and evil, (14-15).
 - B. Sin's consequences include pain in childbearing/childrearing and the husband's dominance, (16).
 - C. Sin's consequences include painful struggle until death, (17-19).
 - D. But God provides hope through judgment, (3:15, 19b).
- VII. God's grace provides for and protects believing sinners, (24).

(Pedagogical . . . What it means to us NOW)

TRUST GOD'S WORD AND CHARACTER IN THE FIRST PLACE.

- I. We must live with the chaotic consequences of sin, (2:15-17).
 - A. God sought to give us rest ("placed him in the garden") so that we might worship and obey Him, (15).
 - B. God warned us of the consequences of sin, (16-17).
 - 1. Personally, relationships would be strained (3:7) and marriage would be "brutalized" (3:16b), (Kinder, p. 73).
 - 2. Spiritually, communion with God would be restricted (3:8, 24) and war with evil would become constant (3:15), (Kidner, p. 73).
 - 3. Physically, life would become painful (3:16) and demanding (19a) and physical death inevitable (3:19b), (Kidner, p. 73).
- II. Sin always follows a lack of trust in God's Word and Character.
 - A. Eve doubted God's Word and Character, (3:1-7).
 - B. We often think that we can access the "good" outside of God's will.
- III. Confession alone is our hope for gracious restoration, (3:8-19).
 - A. God elicits confessions from sinners like Adam and Eve, (3:9-13).
 - B. God's righteous grace toward sinners is our only hope, (3:14-19).
- IV. Death became the means by which we experience ultimate "life," (3:24).
 - A. God protected Adam and Eve from eating and living forever in a "fallen" condition.
 - B. God protects those who confess their sin from eternal death, (1 Corinthians 15:50-57).
- V. **TRUST GOD'S WORD AND CHARACTER IN THE FIRST PLACE.**

Although God provides a way of restoration, His way is always the best choice in the first place . . . so, trust and obey, even when you "know or want" better, and thus avoid judgment.