

HIS STORY

Sin leads to a distrust of God's Word.

As we begin to read the opening verses in chapter 3, we see that a drastic change is about to take place between humanity's relationship with their Creator. And at the heart of this change lies an issue of trust—trusting the goodness of God and His Word.

Human rebellion leads us to distrust the goodness of God's Word. This is at the heart of human sinfulness, so it's no surprise that Satan (disguised as a serpent) chose this line of temptation in the garden of Eden.

The serpent didn't first attack with a statement, but with a question. His goal was to lead Adam and Eve to doubt God's goodness. He followed the question with an outright lie: "You will not die." Sin begins with doubting God's goodness and ends with denying God's Word.

► When have you ever questioned the truthfulness of God's Word?

Sin leads to broken relationships with God and others.

The fallout from Adam and Eve's sin began immediately. Their eyes were opened. Their rebellion caused them to have a new consciousness of their nakedness. Shame entered God's good world. The first couple realized that they were naked, and so they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

Before their sin, Adam and Eve felt no shame, there was nothing to hide, and they could be completely vulnerable before God and with each other in complete safety. There were fully known and fully loved.

And even now, we long to be known and loved. But shame has infected all of our relationships. This is why you wonder: *What if someone I deeply care for learned how I really am on the inside? What if they knew the secret thoughts running through my mind every day? Would they still love me? Would they abandon me?*

God created us to be fully known and fully loved. But in our fallen state, we've convinced ourselves that the only way we can be loved is if we're not fully known. We believe it would be impossible for anyone to know the depths of who we are and still love us. That's why we hide.

Essential Doctrine

Sin as Rebellion: *Because the Bible portrays people as responsible beings, expected to respond in faith and obedience to God's revelation, the Bible often portrays sin in terms of defiance and rebellion toward God the King. Isaiah 1:2 is one of many passages that describes sin in terms of rebellion against God: "I have raised children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against Me." Seen in this light, sin is personal and willful disobedience, the raising of a clenched fist toward the One who made us.*

Leader Note: *Because some content from the Personal Study Guide will not be available on the One Sheet, make sure to adapt the session based on how you use the material with your group.*

YOUR STORY

- ▶ **Are you more likely to see your sin as a “mistake” or “failure” or as an act of rebellion? What is the difference and how does it impact our perspective?**
- ▶ **What are the signs that our relationship with God has been broken? What are some ways we hide from God?**
- ▶ **Take a moment to list different ways we can see the brokenness of human relationships in our world. How does the gospel provide an answer for these realities?**
- ▶ **How has sin affected the different spheres of society: family, government, church, the environment? How can we as Christians battle the effects of sin in these areas?**

YOUR MISSION

Head

The historical reality of the fall of humanity is essential to understanding ourselves and the world in which we live. It gets to the root of why things are the way they are—why brokenness and suffering plague both the human race and the world that we inhabit. Every worldview tries to explain why things have gone wrong, but only the Christian worldview gives the correct answer: we rebelled against our Creator long ago.

- ▶ **Why is it important to be able to make sense of the brokenness of our world?**
- ▶ **How does the fall of Adam and Eve shed light on your own personal sins and temptations?**

Heart

The fall of humanity into sin teaches that all things have been affected by the fall, including our very own hearts. And because our hearts have been affected, we are in need of new ones. In fact, this takes place in the new covenant that God established. Because of our condition, God knew that new hearts would be necessary, and that is why He promised that through Christ, He would take out our hearts of stone and replace them with hearts of flesh.

- ▶ **What is the connection between your heart and behavior?**
- ▶ **When it comes to resolving conflict in relationships, why is it important that both parties look inwardly, to their own hearts, to see how he or she might be sinning against the other person?**

Hands

The fall of humanity forever altered the course of human history, disrupting our relationship with God, with others, and with the good world He created. Nevertheless, God is still at work to remake that which has been broken. As we've seen throughout this session, God is on a mission to restore what has been lost through His Son.

- ▶ **How might God use His people in the mission to restore all things to Himself?**
- ▶ **How can you trust in God's Word this week? How might that affect different areas of your life?**