

10 WOMEN YOU SHOULD KNOW



Cover artwork by Michael S., former Crossroads student

LESSON 1

Hope in God's Promises



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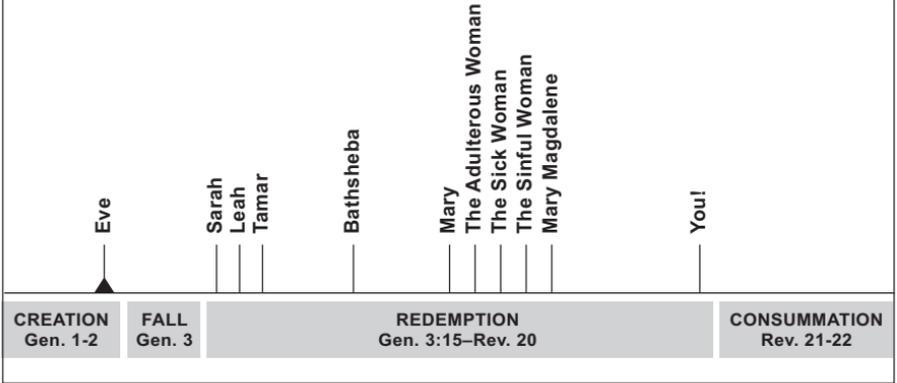
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LESSON 1. Hope in God's Promise



The first woman that we will study in this series of lessons is Eve. Her story is found in chapters two and three of Genesis. The word *genesis* can mean *beginning, origin, or genealogy*. Therefore, the title Genesis is appropriate because it tells about all kinds of origins: the beginning of this universe, the beginning of human beings, the beginning of sin, and the beginning of God's great drama of redemption.

1. Read through Genesis 1-3 before you begin. Read it slowly. As you read, study the text so you don't miss any details. Notice every word, remembering that this is God's Word. Check here when you're done.

In the beginning, Eve enjoyed an intimate and perfect relationship with her husband, Adam, with the entire world, and with God. Eve lived in a beautiful place, a flawless garden that God designed for her and Adam to live in, work in, and care for. Eve had everything she needed because God provided for her and Adam. Life in the Garden of Eden was perfect.

But, as you read in Genesis 3, it didn't stay this way. Although Eve and Adam had everything they needed, they gave in to Satan's temptation. At that moment of disobedience, sin entered the world. As a result of their disobedience, Eve's relationships with her husband, with the entire world, and with God were broken. God punished the couple by driving them out of the garden—but not without hope. God soon revealed to them the beginning of His plan of redemption. God promised Eve that from her family line would come a Seed who would one day crush the power of sin and death and Satan himself. In the midst of the darkness of punishment and judgment, God revealed His promise of a Deliverer, and Eve clung to that hope.

**BIBLICAL
FACT 1.**

In the garden, the Creator God met all of Eve's needs in every way.

Genesis 1 and 2 tell the story of God creating the world. Do you remember how everything—every square inch—was carefully crafted and designed by God out of nothing? The world was perfect; there was no spot or blemish on any piece of it.

2. Recall what God thought of His creation when He looked at it. Read Genesis 1:31 and fill in the blanks below.

God saw _____ that he had made, and it was _____
_____.

3. Of all that God created, humans were entirely different. Read Genesis 1:26-27 and describe what made humans different from the rest of creation.

People were God's most glorious creation because they were created to reflect the glorious image of their invisible Creator and live in covenant relationship with Him like nothing else in creation could.

After God made Adam, He realized that it was not good for Adam to be alone. God created Adam to live in community with not just God Himself but others too—this is what it means to be made in the image of God. *“But for Adam no suitable helper was found”* (Genesis 2:20). Adam needed a helpmate. So to complete the creation picture, God made Adam a suitable helper—someone who Adam could live in close community with, a companion who Adam could relate to best.

4. Read Genesis 2:18-22. Organize the following events in the order that they happened. (Place a “1” by the thing that happened first, a “2” by the thing that happened second, etc.)

- ____ A. No suitable helper for Adam could be found.
- ____ B. God declared that He would make a helper suitable for Adam.
- ____ C. God created Eve from Adam's rib.
- ____ D. Adam named the animals.

5. Some might say that Adam was not really *alone* since he had God and all the animals as companions. Read Ecclesiastes 4:7-12. In your own words, why did God create another human companion for Adam?

God created a woman named Eve to be a companion for Adam. The Bible suggests that Eve was a “suitable helper” for Adam (Genesis 2:20). In order to fully understand what a suitable helper is, we need to look to God—the perfect helper.

6. Look up Deuteronomy 33:29b and Psalm 118:7 and identify what a helper is.
7. Eve was a helpmate for Adam. What does Adam say about his wife? Genesis 2:23 records the first love poem from a man to his wife. Fill in the blanks below.

“This is now _____ of my _____ and _____ of my _____ ; she shall be called ‘ _____ ,’ for she was taken out of _____ .”

8. Read 1 Corinthians 11:8 and fill in the blanks below.

For _____ did not come from _____ , but _____ from man . . .

In calling her “woman,” Adam recognized that Eve was his counterpart, because she was taken from him. Adam’s comment when he saw the woman was an echo of God’s announcement (Genesis 2:18b) and a recognition and acceptance of its fulfillment. Adam and Eve were united together in marriage.

9. Read Genesis 2:24. What was God’s intent for marriage from the beginning?

Ephesians 5:21-33 provides us with the perfect model for marriage. Adam and Eve’s marriage wasn’t perfect, because of sin. No human marriages in the Bible were perfect and no marriages today are perfect. But Paul tells us of one marriage that *is* perfect, and this marriage should be a model for all Christian marriages.

10. Read Ephesians 5:21-33. Check here when you’re done.
Based on the above passage in Ephesians, what relationship does Paul encourage us to model our marriages after?
11. Following this example, what should a Christian marriage look like? Fill in the blanks of Ephesians 5:21 below.

“ _____ to one _____ out of _____ for Christ.”

Because of the fall, humans are infected with sin. Therefore, marriage is also tainted. The headship of a husband doesn't imply a dominating authority as many think. Look to Christ. He doesn't dominantly rule the Church. Instead, Christ is the head of the Church in a sense that He is truly interested in her happiness and interests. He is her loving protector. A husband's love for his wife should therefore be patterned after Christ's sacrificial love for the Church. A husband, using this model, must love his wife so much that he would be willing to lay his life down for her, like Christ did for His Church. And Paul's words to wives don't mean passive or inferior submissiveness. Paul urges wives to gladly submit to her husband's Christ-like headship with enthusiasm and sincerity, like the Church submits to Christ.

12. Optional verses for **IN-DEPTH** study: Matthew 19:3-8, 1 Corinthians 7, 1 Corinthians 13, Colossians 3:12-25, Hebrews 13:4, 1 Peter 3:1-7, and Revelation 19:7-9.

13. The Bible's guidelines for marriage are clear. Based on what you've read about marriage in the Bible (you can use Ephesians 5:21-33, Hebrews 13:4, and 1 Peter 3:1-7), what does a marriage relationship between a man and a woman look like? Is this a new perspective on marriage for you?

14. God's Word shows us the many ways God revealed Himself to Adam and Eve in the garden, just like He reveals Himself today through His creation and through His Word. Match the verse on the left with the way God showed Himself to Adam and Eve on the right. Draw a line to show the matches.

A. Genesis 2:7, 22a	1. Match-maker
B. Genesis 2:8	2. Gardener
C. Genesis 2:9	3. Surgeon
D. Genesis 2:21	4. Provider
E. Genesis 2:22b-24	5. Creator

15. Did you notice any other ways that God revealed Himself to Adam and Eve in Genesis 1 and 2? Record your answer below.

God made sure that Adam and Eve had everything they needed. Nothing was wrong in the garden. They had all the food and drink they needed. There was always work to do and it never was toilsome or difficult. They had the companion-

ship of each other and of the animals. Their lives were peaceful because they never had marital conflicts with each other or discipline issues with the animals over which they had dominion (Psalm 8:6-8). Most importantly, they were close to God. Adam and Eve lived in an intimate relationship with God and they obeyed Him perfectly because they were without sin.

16. In one or two sentences, describe the relationship in the beginning between the Creator and His creatures, Adam and Eve.

The garden seemed like a great place to live. But although the garden was beautiful and perfect, we shouldn't look back there and wish our world was that way. Remember that in Christ's obedience we've gained more than we lost in Adam and Eve's disobedience. We should, instead, be looking forward to the glorious place Christ is preparing for us in heaven (John 14:2-3 and Revelation 21).

17. You are created in God's image, too. God desires to be in a relationship with you. Read Philippians 4:19 and 2 Peter 1:3 and in one or two sentences, describe the promises God makes to you.

**BIBLICAL
FACT 2.**

God punished Eve when she failed and took her eyes off God's provisions and truth.

Adam and Eve had the freedom to eat from the trees in the garden. However, God made one thing clear: Adam and Eve were not allowed to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God was firm on this command. He told the couple that if they ate the fruit of this tree, they would surely die.

18. Read Genesis 2:16-17. Write out the command that God gave to Adam regarding the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

19. What was so different about this “forbidden tree”? Read Genesis 2:9 and Genesis 3:6 and then compare the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil with the fruit from all the other trees by putting an ‘X’ in the boxes which match up.

	Good for Food	Gives Wisdom	Pleasing to the Eye
Tree of knowledge of good and evil			
All other trees			

20. Based on the chart above, what was the **one** thing that the tree of the knowledge of good and evil had that the other trees didn’t have? Refer back to Genesis 3:6 if you need help. _____
21. Genesis 3:1 says that the serpent (Satan) was more crafty than any of the other animals in the garden. When the serpent confronted Eve in the garden, what did he say to her about God’s command? Read Genesis 3:1 and 3:4-5 and in your own words, write what the serpent said below.
22. What was Eve’s first response to the serpent’s opposition toward God’s command? Read Genesis 3:2-3 and decide if the following statement is true (T) or false (F)? Circle **T or F**.

Eve remembered God’s command to her and Adam and told the serpent that they were not allowed to eat from that particular tree.

23. Compare Eve’s response to the serpent in verses 2-3 with her final response to his tempting lure in verse 6. What changed? Record your answer below.

The serpent, in all his craftiness, led Eve astray by causing her to take her eyes off the goodness and truth of God. His strategy was to lure Eve with lust. Eve was perfectly satisfied with life in the garden; God provided everything she and Adam needed. What more did she need? Satan couldn’t use difficult life circumstances to get Eve to sin, so he used another tactic. The serpent wanted to get Eve thinking not about the many blessings God provided her with, but rather about the one thing she did not have—the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 3:5).

24. Read Genesis 3:1, John 8:44, John 12:31, and 1 Peter 5:8. Based on your reading, list some characteristics of the serpent that you noticed and some strategies that he uses.
25. What was Adam's role during this scene at the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? Read Genesis 3:6b and circle the **two** correct statements below.
- A. Adam was right there with Eve all along.
 - B. Eve searched the garden for Adam and then brought him to the tree.
 - C. Adam begged Eve for a bite of the fruit so she gave some to him.
 - D. Eve gave some of the fruit to Adam and then he ate it.
26. Read Genesis 3:7-8. What happened when Adam and Eve ate the fruit?
27. From this passage, why did Adam and Eve want to cover their bodies and hide from God after they sinned?

Both Adam and Eve failed. As the head of his wife, Adam failed, and as a help-mate, Eve failed. Although the Bible refers often to Adam's sin, it is important to remember that both Adam *and* Eve fell into sin. Both took their eyes off God. Adam and Eve knew that the consequences of their disobedience were severe, and they were afraid. Their eyes were opened, and they felt guilty and ashamed of their nakedness and of their sin. At this moment of disobedience, sin entered the world. This is known as "the fall of humanity."

Look ahead in the history of redemption. Remember when God's people were wandering in the desert for forty years? They were also tempted to take their minds off God's provision and goodness. They gave in to their own lusts and desires for things they did not have, though God already provided for their every need. And just like Eve, they too failed.

28. Read Deuteronomy 8. What tests or trials did God allow the Israelites to go through and for what reasons?

Adam and Eve failed and Israel failed—they took their eyes off God in the heat of Satan's tempting lures and their own sinful desires. The devil also tried to tempt Jesus while He was in the desert for forty days. Read Matthew 4:1-11. Check here when you're done.

29. What three things did the devil tempt Jesus with? See Matthew 4:3, 6, & 9.
30. How did Jesus respond to Satan's temptations? See verse 4, 7, & 10.
31. Describe the similarities and differences of Adam, Eve, and Israel's handling of the devil's temptation with Jesus' handling of temptation.

Satan's powerful temptations sometimes appeal to our deepest longings, but the power of God's goodness and truth is much greater. God promises to provide for our deepest longing and our every need. When we rely on the promises of God in Scripture, we have the power to resist the devil's temptations. God's truthful words are our only weapon.

32. In 2 Corinthians 11:3, Paul expresses his fear that the Church would be deceived by Satan's false apostles. Fill in the blanks of this verse below.

But I am afraid that just as Eve was _____ by the serpent's _____, your minds may somehow be led _____ from your _____ and pure _____ to Christ.

33. What things is Satan using to deceive you and lead your mind astray from Christ? Give **2 or 3** examples below.
34. What biblical promises from God can you use to defeat the evil one? Write **2 or 3** promises below and give Scripture references for them (reference Hebrews 4:15, James 1:2-18, and 1 Peter 1:3-12).

**BIBLICAL
FACT 3.**

In grace, God promised Eve that He would send a Deliverer.

Before the fall, Adam and Eve enjoyed a harmonious relationship with God, but now their covenant relationship with God was broken. Before the fall, God would meet Adam and Eve in the garden and they would enjoy communing with Him, but now when Adam and Eve heard God in the garden, they were frightened. Before the fall, Adam and Eve lived in a perfect union with each other, but now they blamed each other for their sin and their wonderful union was disrupted.

35. Read Genesis 3:8-13. Imagine how Adam and Eve might have felt when they heard God coming to the garden this time. In your own words, describe what Adam and Eve might have been thinking or feeling, knowing they just had disobeyed God.
36. Read Genesis 3:10 and 12. What did Adam say to God when He met them in the garden? Fill in the blanks below.

He answered, “ ___ heard you in the garden, and ___ was afraid because ___ was naked; so ___ hid.” . . . “The woman _____ put here with me—_____ gave me some fruit from the tree, and ___ ate it.”

Apparently the unity between the couple was one thing that had been disrupted as a result of the fall. Turn back to Genesis 3:2. Read Eve’s response to the serpent regarding her relationship with her husband *before* the fall. Compare it with how Adam just referred to their relationship in Genesis 3:9-12 *after* the fall.

37. After reading the two statements, compare them and then discuss how the unity between Adam and Eve was different before and after the fall.

38. Review Genesis 3:12-13. Adam and Eve blamed the serpent, each other, and God for their sin. Now read James 1:13-15. Who is to blame for sin?

Sin had entered the perfect world God created. These consequences affected Adam and Eve and would affect all of humanity for generations to come. Though God did not create it this way, the human tendency is now only evil all the time—we cannot do any good on our own. But God would not let this evil go unnoticed, for death was the punishment for sin and disobedience (Romans 6:23), so punishment came as a consequence for disobedience just as they were told.

The judgment of God was displayed in Genesis 3:14-19 as He punished the serpent, Adam, Eve, and all of humanity. Read their punishments in Genesis 3:14-19. Notice how the punishments are pronounced in the same order in which the sins were committed. Answer the following questions below.

39. Read Genesis 3:15 and consider God's curse on the serpent. What does this curse have to do with Eve and her offspring? What does it mean that there will be enmity¹ between them?

40. There would be enmity between the offspring of the serpent and of the women. Read John 8:44-47, Revelation 12:9-10, and Revelation 12:17. Identify who each of the following represents. Match the numbers on the right with the letters on the left.

____ A. Serpent

____ B. Serpent's offspring

____ C. Woman's offspring

1. Jesus and those who obey Him and believe in Him

2. Those who don't believe in Christ and His truth

3. The devil or Satan

41. Read Genesis 3:16. State the woman's punishments below and their impact on her roles as a mother and wife.

¹Enmity means hostility, resentment, or hatred.

42. Is the following statement true (T) or false (F)? Circle **T or F** and explain your answer below.

The curse given to Eve was a one-time punishment and does not affect our society today.

43. Now read Genesis 3:17-19. What was Adam's sin and the punishment for this sin? Circle the **three** correct answers below.

- A. God did not punish Adam because Eve sinned first.
- B. Adam's punishment for sin is that he will labor with toil and in frustration for his food.
- C. God punished Adam for his sin by sending Eve to another country.
- D. Adam sinned because he listened to Eve and ate from the tree.
- E. Because they sinned, Adam and Eve would one day die.

44. It gradually becomes clear that God was not giving up on Adam and Eve and their descendants for good. God had a plan! Read Genesis 3:20. Adam displays his faith in God's plan here by naming his wife. Fill in the blanks below.

Adam named his wife _____ , because she would become the _____ of all the _____ .

45. Evaluate the way that God punished Adam and Eve. Do you think their punishment was fair or unfair? Read Genesis 3:21-24. Please explain your answer below.

Adam and Eve failed and God punished them, but in the middle of God's words of judgment came words of hope. God left Adam and Eve and the generations that would follow with a promise in Genesis 3:15 that one day a Descendant, or Seed, would come and crush the power of sin and death. From this point on, all of history pointed forward to the coming of this Deliverer. This One would overcome the serpent once and for all and erase the sin that had kept humanity apart from God. This was God's plan for redeeming His people.

The New Testament says in Romans 5:18-21 that Adam's disobedience resulted in the sin of many. But Romans also says that the obedience of One man resulted in the righteousness of many. Read Romans 5:18-21. Check here when you're finished.

46. According to Romans 5:18-21, what does Adam and Eve's sin have to do with you? How does knowing about Christ's obedience give you comfort and hope when you disobey?

God was faithful when Eve was unfaithful. Although Eve disobeyed, God's promised Son—Jesus Christ—was obedient. Christ obeyed and paid to declare Eve (and you!) righteous before God by faith.

47. Where have you noticed God's faithfulness to His promises in your life when you were unfaithful to Him?

Remember that Adam and Eve's story is a real story. Their story, as with all the stories in the Bible, *actually* happened in history thousands of years ago. Read Genesis 4:1-26 to put Adam and Eve's story more in context. This story is about Adam and Eve's sons, Cain and Abel, and how the sin in their sons' lives led to jealousy, anger, and murder. Check here when you're done.

48. Is there a sin in your life that needs to be confessed and put away so that you do not negatively influence those around you? How can 1 Corinthians 10:13 help you overcome this sin? Record your thoughts and feelings below.

By nature, we are prisoners of sin (Galatians 3:22-24) and only God can release us from this bondage. God's promise of victory and forgiveness for His people was fulfilled in Christ, and because of Him you have been forgiven and set free from your sins through faith.

49. Compare your relationships with God, others, and creation before you knew God, with your relationships now that you have experienced God's forgiveness. Do you notice a difference? If you haven't ever experienced God's forgiveness, or if you need to ask for forgiveness again, ask God in a prayer right now. Use these verses to guide your prayer: Psalm 51, Psalm 103, Romans 7:21 to 8:2, and 1 John 1:7-9.

LESSON 1—REVIEW

50. Highlight **3 or 4** main points of this lesson below. What main point did you find most interesting? What is something new you learned? Which main point had the greatest impact on your walk with God?

BIBLICAL FACTS FROM LESSON 1

1. In the garden, the Creator God met all of Eve's needs in every way.
2. God punished Eve when she failed and took her eyes off God's provisions and truth.
3. In grace, God promised Eve that He would send a Deliverer.

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