

In response to sin God delivers a curse. As the curse spreads throughout creation, what effects will it have on the human race (**Genesis 3 v. 14 – 19**)?

What hope does God provide even as he is delivering judgment (**Genesis 3 v. 15**)?

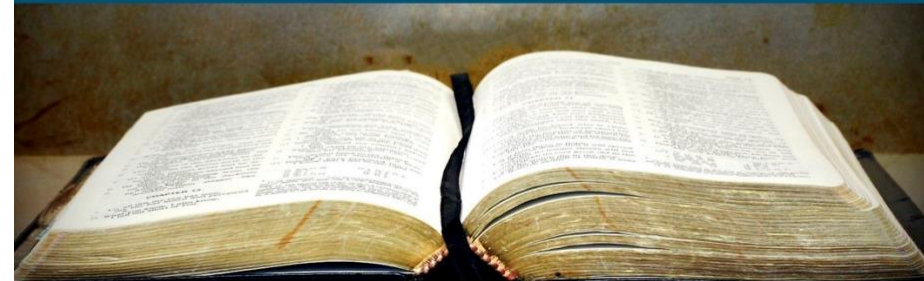
Although his law is broken, God takes steps to extend his grace. How does he give protection and grace to our sin – damaged race (**Genesis 3 v. 21 – 24**)?

There is no hope for us until we acknowledge that sin affects us – our relationships, self – image, actions and so on. How can we become more honest about ourselves and our sin?

Salendine Nook Baptist Church

Genesis 3 v. 1 - 24

Wednesday Bible Study



Something to do NOW

In the section that is entitled:
Some Thoughts To Help You While You Study
you will find a prayer to say that concludes this study along with Study 5, that have been looking at the essentials of the Christian understanding of Human Nature.

Something to do LATER

Invite God to take a tour of your inner life for the purpose of cleaning it out.

Keep in mind that the purpose of this tour is not to condemn you but to cleanse you.

As God walks through the corridors of your heart, let him see your self – centeredness, envy, anger, jealousy, bitterness and whatever else that God calls sin.

Ask God to cleanse each sin with his transforming holiness and grace.

After you have spent some time with God on this tour, make a note about how it affected you.

Now use the opportunity to
PRAY

In our Bible Studies we will be using a booklet from 'A Life Builder Bible Study' series. Our overall theme for these studies is: **CHRISTIAN BELIEFS**. The studies were originally written by Stephen Eyre, but we will be modifying them in order that they become more usable for both home study and Church study.

These studies give us the opportunity to study the Bible in a greater depth and to reflect on what it is saying to us.

If you are unable to be with us in church and have decided that you will be doing the studies from home, it is suggested that you do the study on a Wednesday morning, for an hour, starting at 10.30am. Get yourself a tea or coffee, a Bible, pen and paper (for any notes you want to make) and begin studying.

We do hope that you enjoy the studies that have been produced!

Knowing what we believe is foundational to a healthy relationship with God and others. These studies on Christian Beliefs explore what Christians need to understand about some vital topics: **God, Christ, The Holy Spirit, God's Word, human nature, salvation, the church and the 'last things'**.

Having a good grasp of these beliefs will equip us to make sense of the world we live in, strengthen our assurance of our own identity in Christ and direct us to a life of integrity.

Some Thoughts To Help You While You Study

The purpose of the study is:

To consider the effects of sin and look to God for deliverance.

Genesis 3 v. 1 – 24 describes the nature of sin and temptation. At its root, sin is challenging the character and intentions of God. Every sin committed since the original one is only a reflection of its evil.

Satan portrays God as an insecure tyrant, seeking to guard his position of power. Satan makes God's prohibition sound like something petty rather than something intended for human good.

It is possible that Adam and Eve were only thinking about the pleasure they derived from eating the forbidden food. Often the worst sins are committed with no sense of evil or wrongdoing at the time we are sinning. Only later, when the consequences appear, do we really think about the terrible things we have done.

Adam and Eve's nakedness was a physical symbol of their innocence. After they sinned, they could not stand to be naked because they now had something to hide – internally as well as externally. There is an intimate relationship between spiritual sin and physical needs. Sin has physical consequences, and Adam and Eve were responding to their guilt and shame by seeking a way to physically cover themselves.

One of the ways we hide is to keep busy. We are too busy to pray; too busy to read Scripture; too busy to worship. A little inward reflection will reveal that we are frequently too busy because we don't want to pray, read Scripture or worship. We can even be so busy for God by doing ministry in the church that we avoid time alone with God.

In Alcoholics Anonymous, recovering alcoholics attend a meeting every week. They stand before the people in the meeting, say their names and affirm: 'I am an alcoholic'. Their admission and public confession are essential for their continued sobriety. It might be helpful for Christians to do the same thing. We need to affirm and confess that we are sinful. When we confess our sinfulness to each other, we find strength and courage to face it.

The following prayer comes from churches with a strong liturgical tradition.

Conclude the study time by praying this prayer or rephrasing it in a way that you feel comfortable with.

Almighty God, my heavenly Father: I have sinned against you, through my own fault, in thought, and word and deed, and in what I have left undone. For the sake of you Son our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive me all my offenses and grant that I may serve you in newness of life, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

STUDY 6 OUR IDENTITY & DEPRAVITY

Terrible themes recur in the evening news reports – pain, conflict, violence and corruption. Through the miracle of technology, we often see people inflict pain on other people. The victims of pain stretch from the cities we live in to the far reaches of the world. Every night there is a dreary inevitability about it. The themes are the same; only the names and circumstances change.

PERSONAL REFLECTION: *How do you feel when you hurt others because of your selfishness or thoughtlessness?*

Genesis 3 v. 1 – 24 is one of the most pivotal chapters in Scripture as we see the introduction of Christian understandings of the origin of human sin.

Read Genesis 3 v. 1 - 24

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT:

If you were making a movie based on this passage, describe the music you would use for the background.

The scene opens with a conversation between the serpent and the woman (**Genesis 3 v. 1 – 5**). How does the serpent raise doubts about God's motives?

The evil one approached Adam and Eve through the serpent. What disguises does he use today? In what situations might he try to get to question God's character and motives?

Adam and Eve chose to disobey God. What do you think may have been going through their minds as they were eating the fruit (**Genesis 3 v. 6 – 7**)?

The first **'fruit'** of their disobedience was a sense of nakedness (**Genesis 3 v. 7**). Why do you think they felt a need to make coverings for themselves?

Since Adam and Eve, all of us (*except Jesus*) have sinned. What **'fig leaves'** do we use to cover our own sins?

As God appears in the Garden (**Genesis 3 v. 8 – 9**), Adam and Eve are hiding in the bushes. How do we hide from God?

The Lord knows everything. Why then do you think he uses questions to investigate Adam and Eve's sin (**Genesis 3 v. 9 - 13**)?