

# THE FALL AND A PROMISE

Fall into Sin  
Genesis 3  
Sometime after creation

## OVERVIEW

### BIBLE TRUTH

God promises to help sinners.

### BIBLE VERSE

The Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world.  
1 John 4:14

### LEARNER GOAL

I can explain that humans are God's special creation, born into sin and in need of a Savior.

### LAW & GOSPEL

We are self-centered and blame others; for these and many other sins, we deserve temporal and eternal death.

**God sent His Son, Jesus, to crush sin, death, and the devil, and through Him, God forgives our sins and gives us eternal life.**

### SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

The slithery serpent causes Eve to doubt God's Word with one simple question, "Did God actually say . . .?" (Genesis 3:1). Seeking to gain wisdom, both Eve and Adam rebel against their Creator. Suddenly aware of their condition before God, they vainly attempt to hide their sinful exposure. With sin comes just punishment, yet our heavenly Father does not leave humankind without hope. Instead, He promises One who will come to rescue His people from the jaws of death and Satan.

## LESSON PREP

**BASIC** Read Genesis 3 and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

**MORE TIME** Read "Apologetics Helps" on the back page in preparation for the "Live" section.

**IN DEPTH** Read the section "The First Article (Part 1)" in *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* (2017).

## SUPPLY LIST

### FOR THIS LESSON

Sheets of paper

### FOR EVERY LESSON

Student copies of *Defend Journal*

Bibles

Pens

Shareable images from digital resource center

Supplies for bonus activities



### LEADER NOTE

Youth (and adults as well!) are very familiar with temptation, sin, and punishment. In your study and discussion today, help learners embrace the promise of salvation in Jesus that is ours as well.



### DEFEND JOURNAL

Hand out journals and turn to Lesson 2.



### BONUS ACTIVITY

Use the “Sin and Savior” activity to help youth understand the importance of what Jesus did on the cross.

# LAUNCH

## WALK-IN QUESTION

What’s the biggest lie you’ve ever told and gotten away with?

## TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE

Play Two Truths and a Lie. Give each person a sheet of paper. Tell everyone to write down three statements about themselves, two that are true and one that is a lie. Have each person read his or her statements aloud. Guess which one is a lie! Talk about it.

**SAY** These lies were in a game. What does lying do to a relationship in real life?

**PRAY** Lord God, forgive us for lying and for the many sins we commit every day against You and others. Thank You for restoring our relationship with You through Jesus’ death and resurrection. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

# LEARN

## READ “THE BIG PICTURE” AND TALK IT OUT

▷ How is God’s relationship with us *the same as* His relationship with the rest of creation? How is it different?

### DISCUSSION POINTS

- God created all things, including humans. God continues to care for His creation.
- God specially formed Adam and breathed into him the breath of life. Humans have a soul; animals and plants do not. God created man in His own image.

## LEARN ABOUT “THE FALL”

Read **Genesis 3**, with student volunteers reading the parts of Adam, Eve, Satan, God, and the narrator (all the text between spoken passages).

### TALK ABOUT IT

- ▷ How did Satan tempt Eve? How does Satan tempt us?
- ▷ In what ways did Adam and Eve sin? How is our sin similar?
- ▷ How did God punish Eve, Adam, Satan, and all of mankind? How do we feel the punishment today?

### DISCUSSION POINTS

- Satan tempted Eve by twisting God’s Word and by tempting her to be like God—to be her own god. Satan led Eve to question God’s love for her and her trust in God.
- Satan still twists God’s Word to confuse and lure people to sin. He tempts us to want to follow our own rules. He leads us to doubt God’s love and care for us.
- Adam and Eve disobeyed God’s command. Then they put the blame on others.
- We disobey God’s commandments every day. We also try to blame others for our sin.
- Eve will have pain in childbearing. Adam’s work will become hard. Adam and Eve will face death. We see the effects of sin and feel its punishment today in many ways.

### PROMISE OF SALVATION

- ▷ God’s first promise to send a Savior happens right after Adam and Eve ruin everything with their sin. What does this tell you about our God?
- It shows the great love of God for His sinful people. He wants to restore us to Him.

# LIVE

## DISCUSS “TO BE HUMAN”

Discuss the statement below. Youth may want to write their own questions and thoughts in the *Defend Journal* as well. See the back page of this guide for tips to help you equip the youth for some frequently asked questions.

### ► What does it mean to be human?

#### DISCUSSION POINTS

- Humans are God’s special creation, made to be in relationship with God.
- Humankind was not created accidentally—God created humans on purpose, and with purpose.
- God gave Adam work to do: he was to take care of God’s creation. God gives humans work to do today in our many vocations as husband or wife, mother or father, sister or brother, friend, teacher, doctor, sanitation engineer, pastor, and so forth. When sin came into the world, work became hard. But work is a gift from God.
- Humans continue to have the responsibility to care for God’s creation. We do this by caring for the earth and its creatures and by caring for one another’s needs.
- God made humans male and female. Men and women are different but have equal worth. God said it was not good for man to be alone, so He made Eve to be Adam’s “helper,” his companion. God created humans to live in relationship—with Him and with one another.
- Humans suffer pain and sickness and disease. Humans get old and die. Death is a result of sin in the world. All humans are born into sin. Sin has broken our relationship with God.
- God loves all humans (see John 3:16 and 1 Timothy 2:4). He wants everyone to be restored to Him. But we can’t come to God on our own. That is why God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world. Jesus Christ restored our relationship with God through His suffering, death, and resurrection.

## CONSIDER MAKING A “WORD CLOUD”

Work with youth to create a word cloud, a collage of words, to describe what it means to be human—God’s special creation. Use words and themes that you hear repeated in your discussion.

## CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

As a check for understanding, ask, **What has God done for you? Why?** Thank those who share.

# LEAVE

Read the Bible Verse, written in the *Defend Journal*:

**The Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. 1 John 4:14**

Ask for prayer requests. Invite a student to pray, or offer to pray for the group.



### CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus is the promised Offspring of Eve who crushed Satan through His suffering, death on the cross, and resurrection. God’s promise of a Savior is for all mankind.



### LEADER NOTE

Use “Apologetics Helps” on the back of this leaflet for support as you discuss this question and related topics of interest.



### BONUS ACTIVITY

Get youth moving with “Before and After.”



### SHAREABLE DOWNLOAD

Connect with youth before and after the lesson by using shareable images from the digital resource center.

# APOLOGETICS HELPS

## DEFEND THE FAITH

Where did evil come from? The devil, a fallen angel who rebelled against God (Jude 6), brought sin and evil into the world when he tempted Adam and Eve to sin. Sin has corrupted all of God’s creation, including humankind. Every person is born into sin and unable to fear and love God. Our sinful human nature has corrupted the earth and created a world full of suffering and sin. God sent His Son to free us from our slavery to sin and restore our relationship with God.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ► Why do people look so different?

We are not that different from one another! The basic genetic difference between any two people in the world is typically around 0.2 percent. The “racial” characteristics people notice (skin color, eye shape, etc.) account for only 0.012 percent of human biological variation. We are truly one race—the human race—descendants of Adam and Eve.

### ► What does it mean that we are made in the “image” of God? Does it mean we are “little gods”?

No. Some religions, such as the Mormons, do teach that humans can become divine. The Bible does not teach this. The image of God can be understood in a couple of ways. In the wide sense, God created humans with an intellect that makes us separate from, and superior to, the animals, and He made us His representatives on earth. See Genesis 1:26–27. In the narrow sense, mankind was created with perfect knowledge of God and the holiness of His will. After the fall, mankind continued as distinct from animals and as the representatives of God on earth; but the perfect knowledge of God and His will was corrupted in the fall. It is being restored through faith in Christ, and it will be fully restored at the resurrection.



## CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

### IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God has redeemed me, a sinful human, through the Promised One, Jesus Christ.

### CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I can forgive others their sins against me because in Christ, God has forgiven me.

## GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

*See how this lesson builds on learning for each age.*

### ADULT

I can summarize the story of mankind’s fall into sin and God’s initial plan to restore creation.

### YOUTH

I can explain that humans are God’s special creation, born into sin and in need of a Savior.

### ELEMENTARY

I understand that I am a child of God but also a sinner in need of a Savior.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God sent Jesus to save us from sin.

## BONUS ACTIVITIES

### SIN AND SAVIOR

5–10 minutes

Work together to make a five-minute quick sketch that shows sin and how our Savior took care of this problem for us.

### BEFORE AND AFTER

10–20 minutes

Divide youth in two groups. Groups take turns creating freeze-frames to show life before and after the fall. (E.g., before, animals tame; after, animals wild. Before, work easy; after, work hard.) The other team guesses what is being acted out.

### SERVICE PROJECT

Outside of class

Be good stewards of our earth by doing a service project with a community organization that cares for the environment or helps people (food pantry, clothing drive, tutoring, etc.).