

CURSE & PROMISE

BEFORE



AFTER



Day 4: God's Curse and Promise

Genesis 3:7-24

Open Air Campaigners Outline

Introduction: Have you ever tried to hide from somebody? Sometimes you can fool them and they can't find you. Other times, your hiding spot is not very good and you get found. No matter how good we hide our bodies or our thoughts from God, God knows everything and sees everything. Nothing can be hidden from God's sight (Hebrews 4:13).

The last time we met together, we learned about the worst mistake any human has ever made: the first sin against God in the Garden of Eden. And because of their sin, they felt ashamed of their sin and their nakedness and hid from God among the trees and bushes.

Upper Left Hand Box:

1. Draw in Adam and Eve as you are saying this..

B. Not only did they hide from God, they took fig leaves and made clothes for themselves to hide their nakedness.

C. *2. Draw in green clothes on Adam and Eve.*

Does hiding from God work? No, God came looking for Adam and called out to him saying, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9) If the Bible says nothing is hidden from God's sight, why was God asking Adam where he was? (Wait for a response)

God came to Adam wanting Adam to admit his sin and reconcile with God. God only called out to Adam to see if Adam would keep hiding from God and admit his sin.

Adam heard the presence of God moving the Garden toward him. In fear he called out to God and said he was hiding because he was naked (Genesis 3:10). It was not that he was naked that was the problem, it was that Adam sinned. Therefore, Adam was afraid of God instead of loving Him. The covering of fig leaves was therefore...

3. Draw in "Not Acceptable".

In response to their sin, Adam and Eve immediately reacted by covering themselves physically. This cannot take away the guilt of our sin. Sin is on the inside, and only God Himself can take away our sin.

Today people don't use fig leaves to cover up their shame and guilt, instead they might think that

- Being good to make up for being bad will fix their sin
- Going to church will fix their sin
- Being baptized will fix their sin
- Good Works will fix their sin

Although these things have value, none of them can save our soul from death and hell. Only God Himself has the power to save us, nothing we can do can save us.

Upper Right Hand Box

Back to the story of Adam and Eve:

D.

God came to Adam and questioned him: "Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" Genesis 3:11

E.

Instead of Adam taking all the blame and admitting his sin, he told God it was Eve's fault. Then when God questioned Eve, Eve said it was the serpent's fault.

What does this show? Adam and Eve used to have a perfect relationship with God and each other. Now they are fighting and blaming each other instead of confessing their sin openly to God. Their reaction is a true sign of their sinful hearts now.

It is also a sign of our sinful hearts. When we are asked if we did something wrong, what do we often say? It was his fault. It was my brother's fault. It was my sister's fault. He started it.... When we do this, we are showing that we are no different, and no better, than Adam and Eve. We are sinful and deserve the same punishment as them.

So, God went to the Serpent and pronounced a curse upon it.

F.

4. Draw in the word "Serpent".

As you explain what the curse is (Genesis 3:14), draw in the serpent in red.

Next, God says something amazing! He gave Adam and Eve hope in the midst of their trouble. In Genesis 3:15, God makes a promise to the serpent, who is the devil...

5. Draw in the word "Promise" in the title.

G.

God makes a promise that one day the devil will be defeated. He will be allowed to do some damage, but only for a period of time. God then makes a promise that someone so powerful is going to come and will crush the head of the serpent.

6. Draw a circle with a line going through the middle above the serpent.

What an awful picture! If someone's head is crushed it means their life is now at an end. So God is saying someone is going to come from the offspring of Adam and Eve that is so powerful he will be able to destroy the devil. Is any human, any offspring of Adam and Eve powerful enough to destroy the devil? No. Only God can do that. So what does this mean?

This is the first teaching in the Bible of God predicting in the future that He would become flesh and blood and live among us. God would become human. He won't stop being God, but He will give Himself a human body to carry out His plan to destroy sin, death, and the devil. If an offspring of Adam and Eve is going to crush the devil, the only person who fulfilled this was Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

7. Draw in the cross in the sunset.

God was telling the future of what would happen four thousand years later. We now look back two thousand years and see how this promise came true in the person of Jesus Christ.

Remember on day 1 when we talked about who God is? God is a Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. It was God the Son who took on human form and came to earth to destroy the devil (Philippians 2:5-11, 1 John 3:8). His human name was Jesus Christ. He is the one we will be talking about tomorrow as the one and only Savior for our sins (1 Timothy 2:5).

God also makes the prediction that the serpent (the devil) would strike his heel (Genesis 3:15). If your heel gets damaged, you would be in pain but you would survive. So, even though Jesus would someday destroy the devil, the devil would hurt Jesus Christ. How did that happen? We will talk about that more tomorrow, but simply put: Jesus came to die for our sins, so we wouldn't have to die for our own sins. Then Jesus Christ rose from the dead.

Well, this has been good news! There is hope for forgiveness! God is making a way for salvation! However, just because God wants to save us, doesn't mean he overlooks sin. Not at all.

God came to Eve and told her about the curse that was going to be upon her and the rest of women after her...

H.

8. Draw in the word "Eve".

As you explain the curse of Eve draw in

9. Eve pregnant with lines coming out from her belly to represent pain in childbirth.

The curse among Eve was that from then on when she would have children it would be very painful. So, for women, the pain in childbirth is supposed to remind women how Eve brought sin into the world. Also, Adam and Eve would argue over who would be in charge in the family. No longer would there be mutual harmony, there would be debates and fighting among them, and all the husbands and wives who would come after them.

Next God came to Adam...

I.

10. Draw in the word "Adam".

As you explain the curse on Adam, draw in...

11. Adam with a rake or pitch-fork

12. Weeds around Adam on the ground

In the Garden of Eden, God had provided everything for Adam. Now, Adam was going to have to work hard for his food. Weeds and thorns were going to come out of the ground to make it hard for Adam to grow food (Genesis 3:17-19). So, when Daddy's have to leave their families and go off to work, this is to remind us that we live in a sinful world and there are serious consequences for disobeying God.

So what has happened so far? We see God's curse...

13. Draw in the words: God's curse and promise.

In the Garden of Eden we see God's curse and promise. The curse is that God had to punish Adam and Eve on earth for what they did. But also a promise there would be a way of escape through Jesus Christ.

Lesson 12

But what about the penalty of death upon Adam and Eve? Good question.

Lower Left Hand Box

God always keeps His promises. God told Adam that because of his sin, "...for the dust you are, and to dust you will return." Genesis 3:19

But again, here in the midst of seeing God's righteous judgment, we are going to see God's love, grace, and mercy.

After Adam and Eve's sentence was almost finished, God did something surprising.

14. Draw in the word "God" in the blue cloud.

Start drawing in the lambs on the ground as you are talking...

C.

In the once perfect Garden of Eden, we are going to see the first death. Not the death of Adam and Eve, but the death of something else. Right in front of Adam and Eve, God put to death some animals. It doesn't say which kind of animal, but we would assume a sheep (Genesis 3:21). Have you ever seen an animal killed? It is very sad. Especially an animal that is innocent.

B.
D.
E.

Well, again right in front of Adam and Eve, blood was spilled and God took off the skins of the lambs and put them on Adam and Eve. So God replaced the fig leaves with animals skins.

15. Draw in animal skins on Adam and Eve.

What was God teaching Adam and Eve and us when He did this?

When God said the penalty for sin is death, this is revealing to us God's holy and just character (Romans 6:23). But when God killed these animals in front of Adam and Eve, it was showing His mercy.

16. Draw in the words "God's Mercy".

How so?

Mercy means that God doesn't give you what you deserve. This is such a graphic picture! Adam and Eve literally saw something put to death that should have been them! Adam and Eve should have had their blood spilled been put to death right away. But instead, God gives them mercy

by providing a substitute. A substitute is someone or something that takes the place of another.

Kids, have you ever been to school and your teacher is not there? What happens? Usually someone comes in to take your teacher's place. This, again, is called a substitute.

The lambs were a way to teach Adam and Eve a lesson that God was showing mercy to them by not killing them, but revealing mercy can be given only when a substitute is provided.

But you might be saying, "Well, those lambs were innocent. They didn't deserve to die for someone's mistakes."

That's right. You're getting the picture. God gave them mercy in that they didn't get what they deserved: sudden death. The lambs also show us that God gave them grace. The word grace means that God gives us what we don't deserve.

Adam and Eve didn't deserve anything from God. And we don't deserve anything from God. All humans are rebellious. We can not look up to heaven and say, "God you owe me! I deserve this!"

Those lambs didn't have to die, and God didn't have to show His grace and mercy to Adam and Eve, but He did! He provided an animal sacrifice for Adam and Eve showing them that God wanted to give them mercy and forgiveness, even though they didn't deserve it!

How is this accomplished?

Well, God clearly says animals are not the right substitute for humans. They only show us a very graphic picture how something innocent has to die in our place if we are to be forgiven (Hebrews 9). An animal cannot die for a human. A human has to die for a human. The only way for God to fully give His grace and mercy is when a perfect person lays down their life for a guilty person.

Does anyone know someone who has never done anything wrong? God says we all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Because we are all children of Adam, we all have sin in our hearts (Romans 5:12-18). The only one who is perfect is God Himself (1 Samuel 2:2). So if God is going to provide a perfect sacrifice, it would have to be Himself. And this is what we talked about already. God would give, and has already given his perfect Son, to be the Savior of the world (1 John 4:10). Jesus is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29).

Lower Right Hand Box

Well, after God showed mercy it was time for Adam and Eve to leave the Garden of Eden.

F.

17. Draw Adam and Eve on the road leave the Garden.

One of the reasons why God wanted Adam and Eve to leave the Garden of Eden was so they would not eat from the Tree of Life. If Adam and Eve ate from the Tree of Life they would live forever as sinners on the earth reaping destruction among the children that would come from them (Genesis 3:22,23).

G.

So, God placed an angel with a flaming sword...

18. Draw in the angel with the sword.

to block the way to the Tree of Life. Now Adam and Eve would be out of the Garden of Eden to work the ground and become farmers to get their food. Also, they would have children outside the Garden of Eden. Once they left the Garden of Eden there was...

19. Draw in "NO WAY BACK"

And here we are, the children of Adam and Eve outside the Garden of Eden living in a fallen world with sin and death all around us. Only God's Son Jesus Christ can save us from what we deserve. Has Jesus Christ saved you from your sins? Think about this question. Tomorrow we will talk more about this important question that will affect our eternal destiny. Let's pray...

Closing Prayer: Dear God, thank you that through Jesus Christ giving His life for us, you can show us mercy. Help these children understand the gospel tomorrow so that they might be saved. In Jesus name, Amen.

Open Air Campaigners · PO Box D · Nazareth · PA · 18064

Phone: (610) 746-0508 Email: usa@oaci.org Web: www.oacusa.org

