

# Fall

The  
Greatest  
Story

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## OPENING COMMENT

It is a grim reality we live in. Even though we can look at the world around us and see a God of grandeur and creativity we are stuck in the mire of suffering and pain. As much as creation points to God's goodness, it also works to remind us that our experience of life is not as it should be. If God is so good, powerful, and creative why do we experience the discord of relationship and the toil of work so intensely? Why do we suffer and die? The answer is found, not in creation, but in our rebellion. Instead of embracing the works of God and his commands we listen to the voice of the tempter and in so doing Fall into a world with God on the periphery.

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## READ THE TEXT: Genesis 3:14-19, 23-24

The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you." And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return...therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

## UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

1. What are the elements of each individual curse?
2. What is the significance of verse 15?



3. How are we to understand the dynamics of marriage relationships in a fallen world according to verse 16?
4. Both the serpent and Adam's curses are started with a reason for the curse. What is significant about them? What does it tell us particularly about Adam's sin?
5. What is the consequence of the curse? (vs 23-24)

## APPLYING THE TEXT

1. The end of verse 15 is the first hint of God's redeeming plan. Why is it significant that even in the curse God points towards redemption?
2. Verse 16 outlines relational struggle between husband and wife. How does this differ from the complementarity of Genesis 1 and 2? How does this manifest today?
3. In the curse we see a temporal element (pain and toil) and a relational element (power struggle and death). How are these elements felt today? What impact do they have on your life?
4. The most significant consequence to the fall is our separation from the tree of life. Typically, we experience, and are pre-occupied with, the temporal elements of the fall and forget the significance of being separated from God. How might we begin to understand and reflect on the significance of being separated from Life itself?
5. How often do you reflect on the sin in your own life and consider how it separates you from God? This is not a practice of guilt feeling, but of understanding the motivations and consequences of our active rebellion. How might we begin to rightly reflect on our sin? What should the result be?

## BIBLICAL THREAD

1. Genesis 8:20-9:17, Genesis 15, Exodus 19:5-6, 2 Samuel 7:1-17 – the four covenants with God makes in the OT.
2. Matthew 5-7 – Jesus intensifies the requirements of the Law.
3. Romans 1:18-23 – Paul outlining how the wrath of God is revealed.
4. Romans 3:23 – the universality of Sin
5. Romans 6:23 – The cost of sin.
6. 2 Timothy 3:1-7 – a clear depiction of sin
7. Revelation 19:11-16 – how Jesus will deal with sin in the end.

## CONCLUSION

We were meant to work, instead we toil all our lives. We were meant to live in equal and complimentary relationship, instead we struggle to assert power and cause harm. We were meant to live forever, instead we are a mist. We were meant to commune with God himself, instead we wander aimlessly alone separated from His life. The entire Bible reminds us that we fall woefully short of God's intended purposes. Even those whom God called to represent Him failed catastrophically at every turn. Without God we are left in a painful, hopelessly short existence separated from his goodness and grace. As we reflect on this reality we should be drawn to despair and the end of ourselves. Our eyes should be drawn the testimony of creation and we should wonder, will God leave us like this forever?

## SHARE & PRAY



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## LIFE GROUP VISION:

The goal to meeting together around the word of God is three fold. First, we want to more clearly understand what God is saying to us through his Word and apply it to our own hearts and minds. Secondly, we want to build a loving community with each other to disciple one another toward maturity in Christ. Thirdly, we desire each of us, as ambassadors of Christ, to look outwards to our community and ask how we can bring the truth of the gospel to bear on those whom God has placed in our lives.

