

CLAY TO CONQUEST

THE FAITH OF EIGHT



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C L A S S I C

CLAY TO CONQUEST

THE FAITH OF EIGHT

BY

STEVE BRASWELL, FRANK HAMRICK, AND KRAIG KECK

ProTeens[™]

Clay To Conquest: The Faith of Eight

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PREFACE

Baseball suffered a black eye in the 1919 World Series when eight men on the Chicago White Sox intentionally threw the best of nine series against the Cincinnati Reds. “Shoeless” Joe Jackson, who always maintained his innocence, and his seven co-conspirators were expelled permanently from baseball because they had plotted with gambling interests to “fix” the series. This was not the first time baseball games had been thrown, but it was the ultimate corruption for the sport. America became a more cynical country, and we’ve never been able to regain our innocence.

Since then, our nation has become a wasteland of bogus heroes. We are used to the on-field and off-field antics of our sports idols. Teens grow up hearing the behavior of spoiled heroes being excused or worse, justified. The media pumps up sports or entertainment “gods,” only to tear them down when we find out their character flaws. Selfish brats who are overpaid and under-worked are the only heroes our teens find. Where are the true champions?

Every teenager needs a model, and *Clay To Conquest* presents eight candidates for your teens to imitate. These men had exhilarating highs and depressing lows—they weren’t perfect, but they weren’t artificial either. They struggled and sometimes failed, but they continued to serve God no matter what those around them were doing. Your teens will look at these familiar stories with a new perspective and gain some exciting insights into God’s Word.

This study has been written to make the lives of these eight men come alive for your students. As they study Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and Joshua, they will gain an appreciation for their faith in God and be challenged by their relationship with God.

Our prayer for this study is that your teens will find some heroes who are worthy of their admiration and respect because they lived for God.

Elements Of This Study

Study the Table of Contents carefully. It will serve as a road map to show you where you are headed. Take note of the following elements found in this study.

Lesson Introduction

Most teacher’s lessons begin with an introduction that explains how each particular lesson relates to those before and after it.

In This Lesson We Will Learn...

Each student’s lesson lists the highlights of that lesson.

Correlating The Teacher’s Lesson And Student’s Lesson.

In essence, you are teaching the student’s lesson, not the teacher’s lesson. The teacher’s lesson is actually a guide through the student’s lesson to help you present the material to your teens. Study through the teacher’s lesson, and write down any additional thoughts or insights on the material that you have. Notice that the teacher’s lesson and student’s lesson correlate in the truths they present without necessarily being a mirror image of each other. (For example, the wording of the headings may be different.) This is because the teacher’s lesson is not designed to repeat the student’s lesson but to help you guide your students through the lesson contained in their books.

Take note of the places in the teacher’s lesson where special notes and instructions are provided for the teacher.

Ask

When you see “Ask” in bold, italicized type, this highlights a question that you should ask the class. The answer is given immediately following the question.

Discuss

When you see “Discuss” in bold, italicized type, this also highlights a question to be asked. However, the answer is not as simple as in the “Ask” questions. “Discuss” questions may lead to many answers and even to a debate. It may be that there is no right answer. Again, we offer answers and suggestions immediately after the question.

Active Learning

They are designed to help your students better understand and visualize a concept (by experiencing it with some of their five senses). The active learning sections are optional, but we highly recommend them because they will increase student interest and involvement and will often give your students an insight they will remember long after they have forgotten your words.

Challenge

The lessons end with a challenge designed to encourage your students to practice the truths they have heard.

Answers

Every word that is to be filled in by the students in their books is underlined in your teacher’s manual.

Overheads

These are provided as a visual aid for the presentation of these lessons and are indicated in the teacher’s lesson by a symbol. You may copy the overhead masters contained in this manual. Only these overheads and the quizzes may be copied without getting written permission from Positive Action For Christ. The transparency numbers correspond to the chapters where they are used. For example, overheads CTC 2A and CTC 2B are the first and second overheads used in lesson two.

At-Home Work

At the end of each student's lesson is a section of "at-home work" to be completed by the student before the next meeting.

Quizzes

Quizzes are provided for all the lessons (except for Lesson 30, since it is taught at the last meeting of the year). Written quizzes are provided for Lessons 1-12 and 21-29. Questions for oral team quizzing are provided for Lessons 13-20. Quiz answers are at the end of the teacher's lesson. They are not intended to be open-book or open-Bible quizzes. Quizzes encompass both the Teacher Lesson and the At-Home Work.

Chapter 1

MOLECULES, MONKEYS, AND MEN

I am convinced that teens need real heroes. The media builds up athletes and movie stars, most of whom are anything but champions of the faith. Consider this study my one small vote against the maddening rush to crown ungodly heroes.

This year's study will focus on the first eight main characters in the first six books of the Bible. The first character, of course, is Adam. However, before we learn something about the life of Adam, we must discover how it is that Adam, the first man, came to be here in the first place. This question is answered for us in the creation story of Genesis 1-2.

 ***Big Idea: God created the world out of nothing***

 ***In This Lesson We Will Learn:***

- The days of creation
- The power of our God
- How creation is a reflection of God

Text: Genesis 1-2

Someone has said that the most important verse in the Bible is the first verse. Notice that the Bible simply states the fact of God's creation without arguing the point. It simply assumes that there is a God. This is why Psalm 14:1 declares, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." Let's look at what this God has told us about how He created everything in one spectacular week.

 ***Seven Fantastic Days***

Genesis 1 and 2 describe seven fantastic days in which the universe was created, and God rested. If we are not careful, we think we know these verses so well that we tend to rush through them. But let's pause and notice the great truths that these verses contain.

Teacher's Note: You may want to discuss with your students the increasingly popular belief among Christians that God created everything in the universe, but that He did it through an evolutionary process in which each creation "day" was really an "age" encompassing thousands or even millions of years. Although it is true that the Hebrew word for day can mean "a long period of time," this is never the case when the word is used to refer to a specific numeric day (first, second, third, etc.). Many scientists argue that the geological evidence points to an earth that is far older than the biblical record suggests, but their conclusions are based on a premise that minimizes or denies divine intervention in nature as God did in the Genesis flood. For more information on this topic, consult Answers in Genesis (www.answersingenesis.org), Institute for Creation Research (www.icr.org), and Creation Research Society (www.creationresearch.org) publications and web sites.

The First Day: Light (1:1-5)

God brought the whole universe into existence in one moment of time. Simply by the power of His word, everything came into being.

God now begins the process of bringing order out of disorder. The light that appeared was not the sun, for that was not created until the fourth day. This was another light source, about which we know nothing. Note that this light came into being by a simple command: "Let there be light." When God speaks, it is done!

Notice verse 4. How do you divide light from darkness? What was God doing? Here we see something of the infinite power and wisdom of God. It is so far beyond us that we cannot begin to comprehend it.

The Second Day: Separating The Waters (1:6-8)

The second day God divided (separated) the waters above from the waters beneath. This act is also incomprehensible. Here God literally raised the clouds. Scientists tell us that the amount of vapor continually suspended in the air above us is estimated at 54 trillion, 460 billion tons. Water is 773 times the weight of air, so that gives some idea of the power it took for God to separate the waters from the waters.

And remember, it seems that something has fundamentally changed in the earth's atmosphere since Creation. A world-wide torrential downpour lasting 40 days as in the flood of Genesis 7 is unheard of in today's environment, but some scientists and Bible scholars believe that it was fueled by masses of water vapor or perhaps even an ice canopy suspended in the earth's atmosphere. Supporters of this view point to the reference in Genesis 7:11 to the opening of the windows or floodgates of heaven producing the rain that lasted 40 days.

More recently, other scientists as well as some former advocates of the water canopy have concluded that the water canopy must have been much smaller than previously thought. Their latest calculations show that a canopy thicker than a few feet would have created temperatures on earth too warm to support life. These scientists believe that much of the water that caused the flood came from catastrophic movements in the earth's crust that released reservoirs of water beneath the earth's surface—the "fountains" or "springs" of the deep in 7:11. Regardless of where all the water was located or precisely how much was in each place, God's division of the waters successfully created a perfect atmosphere for supporting life and displays His tremendous creativity and wisdom.

The Third Day (1:9-13)

On the third day two things appear.

1. Dry Land Appears

We are continually amazed at the simple and unapologetic way in which these fantastic truths are stated. Here we read that God raised from the waters the great continental shelves. Imagine the power required to move the continents. Yet they rose up from the deep, and the waters rolled into one huge bed where God set their boundaries (Psalm 104:9).

2. Plant Life Appears

There are two important things to note here.

1. Plants cannot live long without sunlight.

Since the sun was not created until the fourth day, if these days were literally millions of years as some say, then how could plants have existed millions of years before the sun?

2. Plants were to reproduce “after their kind.”

Upon this foundation, all of evolution is struck down. The little phrase “after their (or his) kind” occurs ten times in Genesis 1. What is important about the phrase? It recognizes the principle that while there may be changes within a given species, there is no changing of the species. “Like begets like.” Here is a law which scientists cannot explain away and which disproves all their theories of evolution.

The Fourth Day: The Sun, Moon, And Stars (1:14-19)

Next, God brought forth the heavenly bodies (sun, moon, and stars) and set them in their places. In fact, as the psalmist tells us, “He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names” (Psalm 147:4). Here again we see astounding power displayed in a few simple words. The work is great enough to baffle the most learned scientist, and yet it was just a simple thing for our God!

The Fifth Day: Birds And Fish (1:20-23)

On this day God created birds and the creatures of the sea. From the tiniest crustacean to the huge whales—God made them all by a simple act. To study any one of the hundreds of species is itself a lifetime of work. Yet God made them all in a single moment of time.

The Sixth Day (1:24-31)

God did three things on this, perhaps the most amazing of all the creation days.

1. God created land animals.
2. God made man.
3. God commissioned man to subdue and reign over His creation.

The point of emphasis here is that man is not an animal but was created to be distinct from the animals and was given special privileges and abilities that were his alone.



Discuss: What are some ways in which man is different from all animals?

1. Man alone was created in the image of God (1:26-27).
2. Man alone was visited by God and communicated with God (2:16-25; 3:8).
3. Man alone was held responsible for obedience to God's commands (2:16-17; 3:17).
4. Man alone was given the ability to appreciate the beauties of God's creation (2:15-25).
5. Man alone is able to read, cook, write, build, and invent.



The Seventh Day: God Rested (2:1-3)

Finished with creation, God rested.

Ask: Why did God rest? Was He tired? No! Then why did He rest? To show us that His creation work was complete. There was no evolutionary process left to take place. "It is finished," God was saying, just as Christ did when salvation was completed on the cross. When God does something, nothing needs to be added to His work. He does it all. He does it perfectly. He does it completely.

Active Learning:

Divide your teens into small groups and assign them a particular animal to study and report back to the youth group next week. Ask them to demonstrate how their animal's peculiarities demonstrate God's wisdom and the foolishness of evolution. The giraffe, the elephant, the sea cucumber, the bombardier beetle, and the dairying species of ants are excellent places to start.



A Portrait Of Our God

Remember, we are not just studying the Bible to learn more facts this year. We are studying the Bible to see how much we can learn about our God. We are making an effort to grow in our love for Him. So with this in mind, what does the creation of this universe teach us about our God?

The Magnitude Of Our God

Obviously, one cannot look into the heavens without realizing that the Creator must be infinite in power and might. God's magnitude alone is staggering to our feeble, finite minds.

The Creativity Of Our God

Do you ever have trouble coming up with something so simple as an idea for a research paper topic for school? Look at the monkey, the platypus, the anteater, and the strange and unusual fish in the ocean to see the creativity of our God. Surely God wants us to enjoy our lives on this wonderful planet.

The Diversity Of Our God's Interests

Molecules, monkeys, and men—God made them all. Surely His interests are infinite. God also wants us to be varied in our interests. We can see God's hand and character in everything around us...if we will only take the

time to look! This alone should be an incentive for us to get involved in every possible field of study that will teach us more about our God.

The Love And Wisdom Of Our God

He made everything nature needs for its survival and well-being. Nothing was missing! When He finished, He rested. Nothing needed to be added.

Challenge

As you look at God's wonderful world of creation, do you think about His work, or do you think about Him? He made all these things to show you how magnificent He is. But does your life show others how great your God really is? Does your life show that He can be trusted so much that you don't have to worry? Does your life show that He loves all men and wants them to be saved? What can you do this week to show others what a great God you serve?

Quiz Answers

1. C
2. E
3. G
4. A
5. F
6. B
7. D
- 8-9. Any two of these four will do.
 - The magnitude of our God
 - The creativity of our God
 - The diversity of our God's interests
 - The love and wisdom of our God
10. Man alone was created in the image of God.
11. Man alone was visited by God and communicated with God.
12. Man alone was held responsible for obedience to God's commands.
13. Man alone was given the ability to appreciate the beauties of God's creation.
14. Man alone is able to read, cook, write, build, and invent.
15. Subdue
16. Tree of life
17. From the tree of the knowledge of good and evil
18. Name

Chapter 1 MOLECULES, MONKEYS, & MEN

This year's study will focus on the first eight main characters in the first six books of the Bible. The first character, of course, is Adam. However, before we learn something about the life of Adam, we must discover how it is that Adam, the first man, came to be here in the first place. This question is answered for us in the creation story of Genesis 1–2.

In This Issue We Will Learn:

- The days of creation
- The power of our God
- How creation is a reflection of God

Someone has said that the most important verse in the Bible is the first verse: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Let's look at what this God has told us about how He created everything in one spectacular week.

Seven Fantastic Days

The First Day (Gen. 1:1–5): *Light* _____

The light that appeared was not the sun, for that was not created until the fourth day. This was another light source, about which we know nothing.

The Second Day (1:6–8): *Separating the waters* _____

The Third Day (1:9–13):

1. Dry land appears _____
2. Plant life appears _____

There are two important things to note here.

1. Plants cannot live long without light.
2. Plants were to reproduce "after their kind."

The Fourth Day (1:14–19): *Sun, moon and stars* _____

The Fifth Day (1:20–23): *Birds and fish* _____

The Sixth Day (1:24–31):

1. God did three things on this, perhaps the most amazing of all the creation days.
 - God created land animals _____
 - God made man _____
 - God commissioned man to subdue and reign over His creation _____
2. How Is Man Different From Animals?
 - Man alone was created in the image of God _____ (1:26–27).
 - Man alone was visited by God and communicated with God _____ (2:16–25; 3:8).
 - Man alone was held responsible for obedience to God's commands _____ (2:16–17; 3:17).
 - Man alone was given the ability to appreciate the beauties of God's creation _____ (2:15–25).
 - Man alone is able to read, cook, write, build, and invent _____

The Seventh Day (2:1–3): God Rested

A Portrait of Our God

What does the creation of this universe teach us about our God?

The *Magnitude* _____ Of Our God

One cannot look into the heavens without realizing that the Creator must be infinite in power and might.

The *Humor* _____ Of Our God

Look at the monkey, the giraffe, the platypus, and the strange and unusual fish in the ocean to see the humor of our God. Surely God wants us to enjoy our lives on this wonderful planet.

The *Diversity* _____ Of Our God's Interests

Molecules, monkeys, and men—God made them all. God wants us to appreciate the variety in His world. We can see God's hand and character in everything around us if only we will take the time to look!

The *Love* _____ And *Wisdom* _____ Of Our God

He made everything nature needs for its survival and well-being. Nothing was missing! When He finished, He rested. Nothing needed to be added.

Challenge



As you look at God's wonderful world of creation, do you think about His work, or do you think about Him? He made all these things to show you how magnificent He is. But does your life show others how great your God really is? Does your life show that He can be trusted so much that you don't have to worry? How does your life show that He loves all men and wants them to trust Him for salvation? What can you do this week to show others what a great God you serve?

At-Home Work

Level One And Level Two

We noticed that on the sixth day when man was created, he was also instructed by God in his responsibilities. Look up these references and record what they tell us about Adam's responsibilities.

1. Genesis 1:28 Man was to subdue _____ the earth.
2. Genesis 2:9 He was to enjoy the tree of life _____
3. Genesis 2:17 He was forbidden to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil _____
4. Genesis 2:19–20 He was to name _____ all the animals _____

Level Two Only

Match the sentence with the statement that best explains the truth of it.

1.	D	Marriage involves leaving and cleaving.	A. 1 Timothy 2:14
2.	C	Death and sin came through Adam.	B. 1 Corinthians 11:8–9
3.	E	Adam was a living soul.	C. Romans 5:12
4.	A	Adam was not deceived, but Eve was.	D. Matthew 19:4–5
5.	E	Eve was deceived by the snake's subtlety.	E. 2 Corinthians 11:3
6.	B	Eve was created after man.	F. 1 Corinthians 15:45

Chapter 2

THE DAWN OF SIN

Adam and Eve did not live in a perfect environment for long. This lesson catalogs the disgusting descent of man into sin. All wars, death, famine, and disease have their source in the fall of man. May God help us realize how awful sin is.

 **Big Idea: Sin entered the world because people rejected God's plan**

 **In This Lesson We Will Learn:**

- The difference between a test and a temptation
- The steps in yielding to sin

Text: Genesis 3:1-6

The events in this lesson took place in the perfect environment of the Garden of Eden. Three key events occurred there.

1. Satan entered the garden in the form of a serpent and tempted Eve to partake of the forbidden fruit.
2. Adam and Eve yielded to Satan's temptations and disobeyed God by eating the fruit.
3. God punished Adam, Eve, Satan, and the serpent for their parts in this act of disobedience.

These same three stages of sin occur today in the same order. In this lesson we will be looking only at the first two stages, the ones that are recorded in Genesis 3:1-6. Then in our next lesson we will look at the third stage and note how it is seen in the last part of this chapter.

 **Why Temptation Is Tempting**

Temptation is the first step on the road that leads to sin. The temptation itself is not the sin, but it is certainly the door that leads to sin. If man were never tempted, he would never sin.

Discuss: What is temptation? (It is an enticement to do evil.) Why is temptation tempting? What causes us to be tempted? Temptation is tempting for the following three reasons.

Because Of The Source Of Temptation

Discuss: Does temptation come from within or without? Temptation actually comes from within. We may try to tempt someone, but that does not mean he is actually tempted.

Active Learning:

Buy some night crawlers from a bait shop, and bring them to class. Pull them out, and try to tempt the kids to eat them. Then show them a Snickers bar, and tempt them to eat it.

Ask: What is the difference? The difference is not in the outward attempt but in the inward desire. There is nothing in you that desires to eat a worm; therefore, my best sales pitch wouldn't tempt you.

Notice what James says about this: "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed" (James 1:14). In other words, lust is already present in his heart before a man can be tempted. It is more than someone trying to entice you to do wrong. The desire must already be in the heart before the enticement becomes temptation.

Now let's summarize what we have learned so far about temptation.

- Temptation begins with an outward enticement to do evil. (This might properly be called a test.)
- The test becomes tempting only when there is an inward desire to do the evil we are being enticed to do.
- Without the inward desire, temptation is only a test.
- With the inward desire, the test becomes a temptation.

Because Of Satan's Subtlety

When Satan tempted Adam and Eve, he had to overcome their upbringing. They had been trained by God, and thus their greatest weapon against Satan's temptations was God's words. He had told them never to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Since they had no reason to doubt God's word, they had never been tempted to eat of the fruit of that tree. Knowing this, Satan made his initial attack on God's words.

Discuss: How did Satan attack what God said in Genesis 3:1-6?

He Questioned God's Word (Genesis 3:1).

What were his first words to Eve? He questioned what God had commanded. The first thing Satan did was try to put a doubt in her mind concerning the truthfulness and trustworthiness of God's word. Notice he does not deny that God said it. He is questioning only whether that was really what God meant. You may face someone who just questions God's Word—he doesn't deny it. Beware! This is how Satan tempted Eve.

He Contradicted God's Word (Genesis 3:4).

Next, Satan boldly challenged God's word by saying they would not die even if they disobeyed. Satan did not make this bold statement until he had first planted a doubt in her mind. Once he started questioning God, then he could be more blatant in his attack. Thus, he now in essence calls God a liar!

He Attacked God's Motives (Genesis 3:5).

Notice how Satan craftily tempted Eve to begin to question God's true motives. He told her that knowing good and evil was the only difference between her and God. Satan then probably reminded her of the name of the tree—the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Thus, she could logically reason that if she ate of its fruit, she would be as wise as God. Satan told her she would be like Elohim—God Himself.

Because Of Man's Weakness

Satan's tests became temptations to Eve because she was weak at three specific points. These same three avenues of temptation are also mentioned in 1 John 2:16: "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

Teacher's Note: Use the chart to show the parallels with Christ's temptation in Matthew 4.

The Lust Of The Flesh

First, Satan directed his temptation at her biological drives. He wanted her to see that the tree was "good for food." Is there anything wrong with eating? Of course, not. All people have the same biological and physical desires for air, food, drink, and sex. These drives were created by God and are not wrong. However, Satan knows how to take advantage of these desires and use them against us. In this case, Eve was being tempted to eat (nothing wrong with that) something forbidden by God (everything wrong with that!).

The Lust Of The Eyes

Next, Eve saw that the tree was "pleasant to the eyes." It appealed to her appreciation of beauty, but it probably appealed even more to her baser desires—greed, covetousness, and materialism. Everyone likes things that are attractive. Why do you think TV commercials make their products so appealing? Why do beer commercials emphasize sports heroes and the glamorous life. Why do they always seem to be the funniest commercials on TV? Perfume and shampoo commercials guarantee a great love life. The eyes are pleased, and the greedy, covetous, materialistic spirit is enticed.

The Pride Of Life

Finally, Satan appealed to Eve's "pride of life." She saw that the tree was "to be desired to make one wise." She would be wise...she would be as God—all of this could be hers if she ate the fruit!

All of us have the desire to be somebody. We all want to be accepted. We all want people to like us. Who wants to be called a failure? This is our pride. It is because of our pride that Satan wins so many of his victories. So our clothes, our hair, the way we talk, and even the way we walk or stand are often the results of our subconscious desire to create a certain image. It is all part of "the pride of life."

Three Avenues of Temptation

1 John 2:16	Satan Tempts Eve (Gen. 3)	Satan Tests Christ
The lust of the flesh	<u>The tree was good for food.</u>	Turn these stones to bread.
The lust of the eyes	<u>It was pleasant to the eyes.</u>	I will give you all things if you will fall down and worship me.
The pride of life	<u>It was desirable to make one wise.</u>	If You are the Son of God, cast Yourself down from the top of the temple.

Yielding To Temptation

It is sad that we close our study of this passage with the account of Eve's yielding to the temptations of Satan. Read Genesis 3:6 and notice the four steps Eve took in yielding to his enticements.

Step #1—She Saw

Our eyes get us into trouble more often than any of our other senses. This is why God has commanded us, “Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee” (Proverbs 4:25). Satan knows how to use our eyes to entice us to sin. We must learn to do what *is* right, not what *looks* right.

Step #2—She Took

Eve's look led to the second step “she took of the fruit thereof.” Remember, these are steps—first the look, then the taking. Had she not looked, she would not have taken. We are the same. We get involved in sin by degrees. First, we start looking at things that are wrong. Then we begin to examine them more closely.

Step #3—She Ate

Here then is the actual committing of the sin. Looking at the fruit and taking the fruit were not sin in themselves, but they certainly led to the sin. Had Eve not looked or taken, she would never have eaten.

Satan deals with us in the same way. If he can get us to start looking at the world, he can then get us to start “taking” (that is, playing with, toying with, and joking around about) that which is evil. He is then well on his way to breaking down our inhibitions and substituting a deep-seated desire to do that which is wrong.

Therefore, the lust is just as dangerous as the actual sin, for the one leads to the other. This is why Paul told Timothy, “Flee youthful lusts” (2 Timothy 2:22). Paul realized that the “looking” and “taking” would lead to the desire, which would then lead to the sin itself.

Step #4—She Gave

Here is a very significant yet often overlooked step. Adam fell because he was under the influence of Eve. When we sin, we often take someone down with us! Because Eve's sin influenced Adam to sin, she would experience pain in childbearing and be forever after tempted by a desire to usurp her husband's authority (Genesis 3:16).

Lest we seem to place too much responsibility on Eve, 1 Timothy 2:13-15 reminds us that she was deceived in her sin, but Adam knew exactly what he was doing. Adam's willingness to follow Eve's suggestion and disobey God shows that he valued his relationship with his wife more than his relationship with his Creator. Romans 5:12-21 plainly addresses the wide-reaching effects of Adam's sin, not Eve's. Often teens don't realize that sin never hurts only the guilty party. It always affects others, and God holds us responsible not only for our sin, but also for all those who are influenced by our sin to do the same thing or something even worse.

Challenge

What about you? Are you constantly yielding to Satan's temptations because you have never learned to flee youthful lusts? It is never cowardly to run from sin. Remove yourself from the places where you know you will be tempted. Stop “looking” and “taking.” If you will do these things, you will find that you will gain more and more victories over the temptations of the Evil One.

Quiz Answers

1. The source of temptation
2. Satan's subtlety
3. Man's weakness
4. The tree was good for food.
5. Eyes
6. One wise
7. Bread
8. Fall down and worship me
9. Top of the temple
10. F
11. F
12. F
13. T
14. F
15. T
16. F
17. F
18. T
19. T

Chapter 2 THE DAWN OF SIN

Adam and Eve did not live in a perfect environment for long. This lesson catalogs the disgusting descent of man into sin. All wars, death, famine, and disease have their source in the fall of man. As you study this lesson, consider the effects of rebellion.

In This Lesson We Will Learn:

- The difference between a test and a temptation
- The steps in yielding to sin

Why Temptation Is Tempting

Temptation is the first segment of the road that leads to sin. The temptation itself is not the sin, but it is certainly the door that leads to sin. If man were never tempted, he would never sin.

Because Of The Source _____ Of Temptation

Notice what James says about this: "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed" (James 1:14). In other words, lust is already present in his heart before a man can be tempted. It is more than someone trying to entice you to do wrong. The desire must already be in the heart before the enticement becomes temptation.

Now let's summarize what we have learned so far about temptation.

Yielding to temptation

It is sad that we close our study of this passage with the account of Eve's yielding to the temptations of Satan.

Step #1—She Saw _____

Our eyes get us into trouble more often than any of our other senses. This is why God has commanded us, "Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee" (Proverbs 4:25).

Step #2—She Took _____

We get involved in sin by degrees. First, we start looking at things that are wrong. Then we begin to examine them more closely.

Step #3—She Ate _____

Satan deals with us in the same way. If he can get us to start looking at the world, he can then get us to start "taking" (that is, playing with, toying with, and joking around about) that which is evil. He is then well on his way to breaking down our inhibitions and substituting a deep-seated desire to do that which is wrong.

Step #4—She Gave _____

One of the sad things about sin in a person's life is that it does affect others. Often, teens don't realize that sin never hurts only the guilty party. It always affects others—and God holds us responsible not only for our sin, but also for all those who are influenced by our sin to do the same thing or something even worse.

Challenge



What about you? Are you constantly yielding to Satan's temptations because you have never learned to flee youthful lusts? It is never cowardly to run from sin. Remove yourself from the places where you know you will be tempted. Stop "looking" and "taking." If you will do these things, you will find that you will gain more and more victories over the temptations of the Evil One.

1. Temptation begins with an outward enticement _____ to do evil. (This might properly be called a test.)
2. The test becomes tempting only when there is an inward desire _____ to do the evil we are being enticed to do.
3. Without the inward desire, temptation is only a test _____
4. With the inward desire, the test becomes a temptation _____

Because Of Satan's Subtlety

1. He questioned _____ **God's Word (Genesis 3:1).**

What were his first words to Eve? "Yea, hath God said...?" The first thing Satan did was try to put a doubt in her mind concerning the truthfulness and trustworthiness of God's word.

2. He contradicted _____ **God's Word (Genesis 3:4).**

Next, Satan boldly challenged God's word by saying, "Ye shall not surely die."

3. He attacked _____ **God's motives (Genesis 3:5).**

He told her that knowing good and evil was the only difference between her and God.

Because of Man's Weakness _____

Satan's tests became temptations to Eve because she was weak at three specific points. These same three avenues of temptation are also mentioned in 1 John 2:16: "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

Three Avenues of Temptation

The lust of the flesh	<u>The tree was good for food.</u>	Turn these stones to bread.
The lust of the eyes	<u>It was pleasant to the eyes.</u>	I will give You all things if You will fall down and worship me.
The pride of life	<u>It was desirable to make one wise.</u>	If You are the Son of God, cast Yourself down from the top of the temple.

At-Home Work

Level One And Level Two

This lesson focused on how we are tempted to sin. We face some of Satan's temptations everyday. Let's look closer at this subject. Read the verses listed below and write the reference next to the statement that best explains it.

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| A. Proverbs 4:14-15 | B. Galatians 6:1 | C. James 1:13 |
| D. Matthew 4:1-11 | E. 1 Thessalonians 3:5 | F. James 4:7 |
| G. Romans 14:13 | H. 1 Timothy 6:9-10 | I. 1 Peter 5:8 |
| J. 1 Corinthians 10:13 | K. Hebrews 4:15 | L. 2 Peter 2:9 |

C.	Temptation to sin does not come from God.
H.	One source of temptation is the desire to be rich.
E.	Satan is often the author of temptation.
J.	God will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear.
D.	Christ used the Word of God and was victorious over all of Satan's temptations.
K.	Christ can sympathize with us because He faced the same temptations we do.
L.	God knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations.
F.	We can make Satan flee by submitting to God and resisting the Devil.
I.	We need to be constantly on guard against Satan, our adversary.
G.	We should not be the reason for someone else being tempted to sin.
B.	We should seek to restore those who have yielded to temptation.
A.	The best way to keep from yielding to temptation is to avoid it in the first place.

Chapter 3

SIN DOES PAY

Last week we covered how sin entered the human race. Now we will see the awful penalty of sin.

 **Big Idea: Sin has awful consequences**

 **In This Lesson We Will Learn:**

- How the sin of Adam and Eve has affected all creation
- How the general consequences apply to us
- God’s judgment upon the snake, Satan, Eve, Adam, and the earth

Text: Genesis 3:7-24

Ask: What are the three stages of sin? (temptation, yielding, and punishment) In this lesson we will look at the final stage—punishment. We will see how God punishes disobedience to His commands. May God use this lesson to cause us to hate sin and turn from it.

We have all heard the phrase “crime does not pay.” However, that is not exactly true! Crime pays as does all sin. The Bible says that sin has its “wages,” and there will be a payday when sin will pay dividends to all who have invested in its account. However, the pay will not be exactly what people want. Romans 6:23 reminds us that the “pay” for sin is death. As we read Genesis 3 and look at Adam and Eve’s sin, we note that we can divide the consequences of their sin into two major categories—general consequences and specific judgments.

General Consequences

A quick look at Genesis 3 reveals four general consequences of their sin.

Opened Eyes

The first thing the Bible mentions is that their eyes were opened—that is, they saw and experienced the “thrill” of sin (Genesis 3:7a). They now knew what it was like to do wrong. This is the very thing they had wanted. Satan had told them that if they would sin, their eyes would be opened. They would know the difference between good and evil, and they wanted that experience.

The same is true today. Teens are enticed by Satan to try things so they will not remain “dumb” all their lives. “You need to try it for yourself. You need to know what it’s like. Everyone else is doing it.”

It is true that sinners are often more “worldly wise” than saints; but as Paul wrote in Romans 16:19, God “would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple (innocent) concerning evil.” We are often just like Adam and Eve. We want our eyes opened. We want a taste of sin, to know what it’s like. But that is in direct violation of God’s Word. God knows that for us to taste and experience sin is to have our eyes opened to a whole world of evil, and that means that temptation just increases.

Lesson: The less you know about sin, the less you are tempted; the more you know, the more you are tempted.

Humiliating Shame

“And they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons” (Genesis 3:7b). Next, Adam and Eve experienced shame.

Ask: Why did Adam and Eve experience shame? Before they sinned, they were both naked and thought nothing of it; but as soon as they sinned, they became very aware of their nakedness and tried to cover themselves. Before we sin, we are honest with ourselves and everyone around us. We have nothing to hide, nothing to be ashamed of. However, once we sin, we become very aware of the fact that others might discover what we have done. We lie, we deceive, we deny and often live in fear because of the humiliation and shame of our sin.

Lesson: Sin never exalts; it always humiliates.

2 Chronicles 32:9-21—Here, Sennacherib, king of Assyria, had surrounded Jerusalem with his armies and boasted that “no god of any nation or kingdom was able to deliver his people out of mine hand” (verse 15). However, after Isaiah and Hezekiah (the king of Judah) prayed, God miraculously destroyed Sennacherib’s army. Then, the Bible tells us that he was forced to return “with shame of face to his own land,” where upon his arrival, his own sons killed him (verse 21). Here we see the shameful results of sin and the terrible end of a man who refused to honor God.

Proverbs 3:35—This verse teaches that while the wise inherit honor, fools receive shame as a result of their choices. You cannot get away with sin. There will ultimately be a day when you will stand before someone with shame because of your sin—either your parents, school officials, the church, your children, or else the Lord Himself.

Proverbs 11:2—Pride leads to shame. According to the laws that God has established, all proud people will eventually come to shame.

Contaminated Flesh

As a result of Adam’s sin, all men became sinners. We are born with flesh that is contaminated—flesh that is too weak to be godly, too weak to keep the law, and too weak to save itself. We now need Christ to save us, to keep us saved, and to give us the power to live the Christian life.

Lesson: Sin never strengthens; it only weakens our flesh.

Notice what Paul wrote about this in the following verses.

Romans 5:6—Sin leaves us “without strength”—the more we sin, the more susceptible we are to sin. There is a sense in which all sin is “habit-forming.” The first time we commit a particular sin, we may be bothered and ashamed. However, the next time it is not as hard to get up the courage to try it. Soon, it is easy to commit that sin, and our conscience no longer bothers us.

Romans 5:12—Through one man’s sin the whole world was plunged into sin. Remember, sin not only contaminates you, but it contaminates everyone around you!

Active Learning:

Show the teens a clear glass full of water. Drop a small bead of red food coloring into it and watch as it colors the whole glass. Say, “Just one person can affect what the Holy Spirit is trying to accomplish in this group.”

Dreadful Fear

“I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself” (Genesis 3:10). Fear is another terrible result of sin.

Lesson: When we live in sin, we live in the dread fear that it will be discovered. This fear can rob us of joy, contentment, and peace.

It makes us miserable inside. Our minds cannot concentrate on anything else except the dread of being discovered. The peace and joy of Adam and Eve’s surroundings meant little to them once they had sinned. They could not enjoy them; all they could think of was the fear of being discovered by God.

Specific Judgments

Besides the general consequences for their sin, there were also specific judgments that God passed upon the serpent, Satan, Eve, Adam, and even the earth. Let’s briefly notice what these punishments were.

The Serpent (Genesis 3:14)

The serpent underwent a physical change. However the snake moved before, it is different now—it must crawl on its belly. To taste the dust is the result of its part in Adam’s sin, and this penalty is still being paid by snakes thousands of years later!

Satan (Genesis 3:15)

Satan was given the promise that ultimately he would be defeated by “the seed of the woman.” Here is the first promise in the Bible of Christ’s coming and the eventual defeat of Satan.

When you influence others to sin, you are acting like Satan! Satan was the first influencer to evil; and when you draw other teens away from the Lord to adopt your lifestyle, you are no different than he. To do that is to be a loser, for Satan was the world’s first loser (Genesis 3:15), and he will be the world’s last loser (Revelation 20:10).

Eve (Genesis 3:16)

Eve paid for her sin in two specific ways: (1) she would experience increased pain in childbearing, and (2) she would live all her life in subjection to her husband with an inclination to reject his leadership.

Adam (Genesis 3:17-19)

Adam was punished by God in four ways: (1) physical death, (2) spiritual death, (3) a depraved, sinful nature, and (4) hard work. (Of course, all four of these affect women as well as men; however, they are listed here under Adam because he was the representative for the entire race.) All four of these affect us today as we can see from the following.

- Physical death—Every funeral is the result of sin.
- Spiritual death—Hell and the physical torment and separation from God associated with it are the result of Adam's sin.
- Depraved, sinful nature—Our filthy nature that desires to do evil is the result of Adam's sin.
- Hard work—All the sweat, toil, and hard work that we so despise are the result of Adam's sin.

Work itself is not the result of the Fall because Adam had work before he sinned (Genesis 1:28; 2:15, 19-20). But work has become much harder because of man's sin.

The Earth (Genesis 3:17-18)

Even the earth was cursed because of man's sin. Thorns and thistles were not on the earth before man's sin but resulted from it. Even nature itself bears the scars of the sin of Adam! This is why Paul wrote in Romans 8:22, "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now." Nature awaits the day of Christ's return when He will transform the earth and restore it to the paradise that it was before the Fall.

Challenge

Because of Adam's sin, all of us are born sinners. If we were left to ourselves, we would have but one destiny—a place of physical torment and eternal separation from God. However, Christ came, paid man's sin debt (that is, He received the "wages" for our sin through His death on the cross), and now offers salvation from the curse of sin. That offer is received by trusting Him as our Savior. Have you trusted Christ as the payment for your sins?

Perhaps you claim to be saved, but you are living a rebellious life and are leading others into sin along with yourself. Remember, there will be a payday. Sin does pay, and you cannot turn down the check! You may think that you are getting by, but the day of reckoning will surely come. Heed these words and prepare for sin's payday: "They encourage themselves in an evil matter: they commune of laying snares privily (that is, talk about hiding their snares in secret places); they say, Who shall see them?...But God shall shoot at them with an arrow; suddenly shall they be wounded" (Psalm 64:5,7). Payday's coming for you. Are you ready?

Quiz Answers

1. Must now crawl on its belly
2. Was given the promise that ultimately he would be defeated by the seed of the woman
3. She would experience increased pain in childbirth or she would live all her life in subjection to her husband with an inclination to reject his leadership.
4. Physical death or spiritual death or depraved, sinful nature, or hard work
5. Now brings forth thorns and thistles
6. Death
- 7-8. Opened eyes: the less you are tempted; the more you know, the more you are tempted
- 9-10. Humiliating shame: exalts; it always humiliates
- 11-12. Contaminated flesh: strengthens; it only weakens our flesh
- 13-14. Dreadful fear: dread fear that it will be discovered. This fear can rob us of joy, contentment, and peace
15. T
16. F
17. F
18. F
19. T

Chapter 3 SIN DOES PAY

We have all heard the phrase “crime does not pay.” However, that is not exactly true! Crime pays, as does all sin. The Bible says that sin has its “wages,” and there will be a payday when sin will pay dividends to all who have invested in its account. However, the pay will not be exactly what people want. Romans 6:23 reminds us that the “pay” for sin is death.

In This Lesson We Will Learn:

- How the sin of Adam and Eve has affected all creation
- How the general consequences apply to us
- God’s judgment upon the snake, Satan, Eve, Adam, and the earth

General Consequences

Opened *Eyes* _____

“And the eyes of them both were opened.” (Genesis 3:7a). The first thing the Bible mentions is that their eyes were opened—that is, they saw and experienced the “thrill” of sin. They now knew what it was like to do wrong. This is the very thing they had wanted.

It is true that sinners are often more “worldly wise” than saints; but as Paul wrote in Romans 16:19, God “would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple [innocent] concerning evil.”

Dreadful Fear

“I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself” (Genesis 3:10).

Lesson: When we live in sin, we live in the dread fear _____ that it will be discovered _____. This fear can rob us of joy _____, contentment _____, and peace _____.

Specific Judgments

The Serpent (Genesis 3:14)

Must now *crawl* _____ on his *belly* _____

Satan (Genesis 3:15)

Was given the promise that ultimately he would be *defeated* by “the *seed* of the woman.”

Eve (Genesis 3:16)

1. She would experience *increased pain* _____ in childbearing.
2. She would live all her life in *subjection* _____ to her husband.

Adam (Genesis 3:17–19)

1. *Physical* _____ death—Every funeral is the result of sin.
2. *Spiritual* _____ death—Hell is the result of Adam’s sin.
3. *Depraved, sinful nature* _____—Our filthy nature that desires to do evil is the result of Adam’s sin
4. *Hard work* _____—All the sweat, toil and hard work that we so despise are the results of Adam’s sin.

Work itself is not the result of the fall because Adam had work before he sinned (Genesis 1:28, 2:15, 19–20). But work has become much harder because of man’s sin.

The Earth (Genesis 3:17–18): Now brings forth thorns and *thistles* _____

Lesson: The less you *know* _____ about sin, the less you are *tempted* _____; the *more* _____ you know, the *more* _____ you are tempted.

Humiliating *Shame* _____

“And they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons” (Genesis 3:7b).

Before we sin, we are honest with ourselves and everyone around us. We have nothing to hide—nothing to be ashamed of. However, once we sin, we become very aware of the fact that others might discover what we have done. We lie, we deceive, we deny, and often live in fear because of the humiliation and shame of our sin.

Lesson: Sin never *exalts* _____; it always *humiliates* _____.

Bible Illustrations

- 2 Chronicles 32:9–21—*Sennacherib, King of Assyria* _____
- Proverbs 3:35—*The reward for a fool* _____
- Proverbs 11:2—*Pride leads to shame* _____

Contaminated *Flesh* _____

As a result of Adam’s sin, all men became sinners. We are born with flesh that is contaminated—flesh that is too weak to be godly, too weak to keep the law, and too weak to save itself. We now need Christ to save us, to keep us saved, and to give us the power to live the Christian life.

Lesson: Sin never *strengthens* _____; it only *weakens* _____ our flesh.

Bible Illustrations

- Romans 5:6—The more we sin, *the more susceptible we are to sin* _____.
- Romans 5:12—Through one man’s sin the whole world was plunged into sin.

Challenge



Because of Adam’s sin, all of us are born sinners. Because of this, we have but one sure destiny—a place of physical torment and eternal separation from God. However, Christ came, paid man’s sin debt (that is, He received the “wages” for our sin through His death on the cross), and now offers salvation from the curse of sin. That offer is received by trusting Him as our Savior. Have you trusted in what He did on the cross as the payment for your sins?

At-Home Work

Level One And Level Two

Answer the following questions about the first three lessons true or false.

- T F 1. Man was created on the sixth day.
- T F 2. God rested on the seventh day because He was tired.
- T F 3. Man is different from all animals because he can appreciate the beauties of God’s creation.
- T F 4. Man is different from all animals because he was created by God.
- T F 5. The difference between a test and temptation is whether there is an inward desire.
- T F 6. The serpent doubted and denied God’s Word.
- T F 7. Adam was deceived into eating the fruit.
- T F 8. The first step toward sin for Eve was taking the fruit.
- T F 9. Being wise to evil will help you resist it.
- T F 10. One of the consequences of sin for Eve was labor pains.
- T F 11. Work is the result of the fall.
- T F 12. The earth bears some scars of sin too.