

IN THE BEGINNING GOD**Sin's Consequences Genesis 3:16–24**

*“Because you...ate from the tree about which I commanded you,
‘You must not eat of it,’...” Genesis 3:17*

Day 1: Review Genesis 3:1–15. Read Genesis 3:16–19.

1. In verses 16–19, God lays out the frustrations and difficulties women and men will experience as a result of the fall. What do you know about God’s character that helps you understand why he allows them? Do you think this is “fair”?
2. What are the consequences of sin for the woman? (vs. 16) In what sphere do they take place?
3. What reason does God give Adam for the curse he is bringing about?
4. What are the consequences of sin for the man? (vv. 16b–19) In what sphere do they take place?

Day 2: Read Genesis 3:17–20.

5. Taken alone, the statement that man was taken from dust and will return to dust could easily lead to a sense of futility. Even though this statement is true, what other information does Scripture provide that gives us hope and purpose in this life? (Is. 43:1; 2 Cor. 4:7, 16–18; Heb. 2:5–8a)
6. Why does Adam name his wife “Eve”? (vs. 20) Since Adam and Eve have not yet had children, how is Adam’s name for her an expression of faith that—in spite of the curse—they will still receive God’s blessing and retain the privilege of fulfilling the mandate he gave them in 1:28?
7. God gave Eve to Adam to be his helper in fulfilling the mandate to fill the earth and to rule over creation. His design was that this “work” would be characterized by harmony and cooperation in all realms of life (physical, emotional, sexual, and spiritual). (Gen 1:27–30; 2:18, 24–25)
 - a. How does the curse on the woman affect the outworking of this design? (vs. 16)
 - b. How does the curse on the man affect the outworking of this design? (vv. 17b–19)

Day 3: Read Genesis 3:16–20.

8. Although the woman’s work of bearing children is characterized by suffering as a result of the curse, how can God’s mercy and grace be seen in the outcome of her “labor”?

9. Although man's work of cultivating the earth is characterized by difficulty as a result of the curse, how can God's mercy and grace be seen in the results of his labor?
10. How do you see the ongoing consequences of the fall being played out in your home and close relationships?

Day 4: Read Genesis 3:21.

11. Earlier in Genesis, Adam and Eve had both been naked and felt no shame (Gen. 2:25). What causes them to realize they are naked? (Gen. 3:6–7a) What do they immediately try to do upon this realization? (Gen. 3:7) Why?
12. God's provision of animal skin garments shows that Adam's and Eve's fig leaves were not adequate coverings.
 - a. What does God have to do to provide "covering" for Adam and Eve?
 - b. How does God later make it possible for the Israelites' sins to be covered? (Ex. 29:36; Heb. 9:22)
 - c. What does God ultimately do to provide covering for our sin? (Heb. 9:11–14)
13. Since the blood of Jesus covers our sin, what should our response be when we see sin in our lives? (Ps. 32:5; 51:2; 1 Jn. 1:8–9)

Day 5: Read Genesis 3:22–24.

14. Now that Adam and Eve have gained the ability to know good and evil (Gen. 2:17; 3:4–7), why is it imperative that they be expelled from the garden and not be able to eat from the tree of life?
15. When God created humans, he had "high hopes" for them, which they promptly dashed by their failure to trust and obey God. It is fairly easy to see God's justice in bringing a curse upon his creation as a consequence for sin, but it is not as easy to recognize God's love, mercy, and grace. Reread this week's passage and find all the ways that God shows kindness to Adam and Eve.
16. God is characterized by love and kindness (e.g., Ps. 57:10; 145:17; 1 Jn. 4:16). How has God demonstrated this to you this past week? What is God's ultimate demonstration of his love and kindness toward you? (1 Jn. 4:9–10; Titus 3:4–7)