



The Glory of Christ: The Center of History

VOLUME 2

7th-12th Grade Guide Book

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts
to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:6



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Semester 1: *God's Rescue Mission*

UNIT 1

THE SINFULNESS OF MAN

Doctrines

- The Fall of Man and Original Sin
- The Universal Flood
- Man-made Religion
- God Will Judge the World

God's glory is the reason for everything, and Jesus Christ is the highest and perfect expression of God's glory. So everything that God does in history revolves around putting the spotlight on the marvelous Person and work of Christ. Just as a star shines all the more wondrously in contrast to the dark night sky, so the glory of Christ stands out in contrast to the mess we have made through our sins. To understand the greatness of Christ, we must come to see our great need of Him.

SIN ENTERS THE WORLD

GENESIS 3:1-13

KEY CONCEPT

Man is sinful.

Key Verse: Genesis 3:6

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER OUTLINE

1. Story Elements

Genesis 3:1-13

2. Context

Genesis 3:14-24

3. Connections

Genesis 4:1-12

4. Doctrine

Romans 5:12-21

5. Application

1 John 1:8-10

The world was created for God's glory, but man rebelled against Him and, egged on by Satan, now seeks to make himself the center of everything. This week we will examine how sin entered the world. It did not take very long. Soon after Creation came the Fall of man, and the rest of the Bible tells the story of how God has graciously intervened to restore people into right relationship with Himself.

The story of how mankind fell into sin has much to teach us. It reveals the presence of an enemy, Satan, and the basic avenues of temptation that would lure us into evil. The early chapters of Genesis show the unhappy consequences of sin as well. These consequences of pain, hardship, strained relationships, and ultimately death, lead to the first murder. Sin has a ripple effect that has spread through the whole world.

The Bible teaches that we are all guilty before God, but just as we are all sinners in Adam, so by God's grace we can become new creatures in Christ, freed from the guilt and domination of sin. Through Christ's saving work, God's glory shines forth.



STORY ELEMENTS

Genesis 3:1-13

What happened, and why is it important?

The enemy has many names: devil (Matt. 4:1), tempter (vs. 3), Beelzebub (12:24), the evil one (13:19), father of lies (John 8:44), and Satan (Job 1:6), to name just a few. What he is called doesn't matter. What does matter is that we are aware that we have a real enemy who wants to see us devoured (1 Pet. 5:8). It seems that the devil's greatest trick is convincing the world he doesn't exist. Many people try to downplay his role in the world by making light of him. Don't be fooled. He came after Jesus (Luke 4:1-13), and he will come after us. It's hard to see an enemy coming if you don't even believe he's out there.

In Texas, it is a tradition to take yearly pictures among clusters of the state flower, the Blue Bonnet. They bloom every spring around Easter, so we always take a picture of our girls. A couple of years ago we took these sacred pictures after an Easter egg hunt. The girls' dresses were beautiful, their hair was styled to perfection, and their smiles were warm and glowing. The picture was flawless—well, almost flawless. One small defect marred the pristine image: their faces were still painted like butterflies from the egg hunt celebration. A small amount of face paint was enough to ruin the whole perfect picture for my wife forever.

Before sin entered the world, it was perfect—literally perfect. Every plant, mountain, fish, and animal was perfect. This included us humans. We were perfect. Adam and Eve spoke, thought, and even treated each other to perfection. Then one bad choice, just one, was enough to ruin all of that. One act of disobedience was enough to bring sin into the world. That one sin was enough to ruin a whole world of perfection. For as long as there is life on this planet, it will be a sin-scarred picture of what it was meant to be.

How have you seen the negative effects of sin in and around your life?

This is the same trick Satan tried on Jesus. When he approached Jesus during the temptations in the desert, he started by suggesting that Jesus wasn't really who He said He was. Satan demanded proof of Jesus' deity, telling Him to turn rocks into bread to satisfy His own hunger. Then, just like with Eve, the enemy tried twisting God's Word to trick Jesus (Luke 4:9-12). Jesus responded to the temptation of the enemy with a true knowledge of God's Word. God's Word is called the "sword of the Spirit," and it is our only offensive spiritual weapon against the devil (Eph. 6:17). It is vital that you and I spend time learning God's Word. We must know what is truth and what is not.

We can't be sure how long Adam and Eve lived together perfectly with God in the Garden of Eden, but we can be sure of this: it didn't last forever. One day, the enemy showed up in the form of a serpent. This enemy is known as Satan (Rev. 12:9). The Bible says that the serpent was craftier than any of the other animals of the field. Apparently, it could even speak. And every word out of its mouth was a lie. Because he is the first to ever tell a lie in the Scriptures, Satan is also known as the **father of lies** (John 8:44).

As the serpent began his conversation with Eve, he immediately cast doubt on God's truthful words. He posed the question, "Has God indeed said . . . ?" (Gen. 3:1). *Did God really say that? Are you sure you heard Him correctly? That doesn't sound like something God should say.* It's subtle but effective. If the enemy could get Eve to doubt God's words, then he could get her to doubt His character.

How do doubts affect what you believe to be true about God?

The enemy did not stop with insinuating questions; he quickly moved on to twisting God's words. God had given Adam and Eve freedom to eat from every tree except one (Gen. 2:16-17). The serpent tried to make God look like the bad guy by claiming that He

wouldn't let the couple eat from any tree in the garden. Again, the enemy was attacking God's goodness in front of Eve. He was trying to turn her against God. His plan worked.

After only a short time of listening to the enemy, Eve was ready to consider breaking God's command. We must do our best to never give any of our attention to anything that goes against God's Word. Following lies will never lead us anywhere we want to be. It's possible that Eve may have never even thought about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil until the enemy started tempting her. But now, after considering the serpent's lies, Eve began to see the tree and its **forbidden fruit** in a different light. It began to look more appealing.

Sin almost always looks good to us. If the fruit dangling from the limbs of the tree in the center of the garden was covered with worms and mold, it wouldn't have mattered what the serpent said. Eve would have said, "Gross! No thanks." But because the fruit was pleasing to the eye, Eve wanted it. She also wanted what the serpent promised she'd get from eating the fruit: to be wise like God. So she took it. Those are the primary elements of almost all sin: we desire it (lust of the flesh), it looks good (lust of the eyes), and we think we deserve it (pride of life).

But sin is never what it promises. As soon as Eve and Adam ate some of the fruit, everything changed. Their eyes were opened to the fact that they were naked. Genesis 2:25 points out that Adam and Eve were both naked and not ashamed. Throughout the Old Testament, nakedness was a form of shame, and it didn't always have to do with lust. (Remember, Adam and Eve were married.) The important thing to note is that they began to focus on themselves and their guilt instead of on God. They focused on themselves and their sin and wanted to cover it up. They felt the need to hide, both from God and from each other. Their perfect relationship was now broken. Instead of considering each other as more important than themselves (1 Cor. 13:4-8), they now quickly turned on each other and shifted the blame away from themselves (Gen. 3:12-13).

Not only was their marriage relationship now damaged, their relationship with God was fractured. He came walking through the paradise He had created looking for Adam and Eve. He had come to fellowship with them, and they were hiding. They were hiding from God. This is the most terrible effect of sin; it breaks our relationship with our Creator and actually causes us to step away from Him—to hide, to feel like we should run from Him. It's devastating for us and God. Sin is so much more than breaking a rule. Adam and Eve didn't just break a command that day, they broke a heart.



THE BIBLE & THE ARTS

Genesis Revisited

People throughout the ages have read the Genesis account of man's fall into sin and have been staggered at the severe consequences it brought upon both humanity and the entire world. Many have wondered, *Could it have gone differently? What would that have looked like? Did the consequences of one (seemingly) little sin have to be so enormous?* This has led some to reimagine the story in different settings—for instance, on other planets.

In 1938 and 1943, C. S. Lewis published two novels that attempt to do just that. The first book, *Out of the Silent Planet*, imagines a world in which the “humans” never sinned; there was no Fall, and the planet essentially remains a paradise of peace, harmony, and joy. The second, *Perelandra*, envisions a world in which the first humanlike representative is about to face her temptation, and it is the mission of an earthling space traveler to try to prevent her Fall.

The actual settings for these stories may strike readers today as odd. *Out of the Silent Planet* takes place on Mars, which is called Malacandra by its inhabitants. The planet Perelandra in the second book is identified as Venus. A big mistake in reading these novels would be to get hung up on the science. Lewis described Malacandra as a planet with actual canals (and forested regions) and Perelandra as an oceanic world with floating islands of lush paradise. But he wasn't aiming for a scientific depiction of Mars and Venus; he was simply using them as imaginary backdrops for the theological truths he wanted to convey.

Of the two, *Out of the Silent Planet* is perhaps the more fun book to read. That's not too surprising, since, without sin and evil to mar things, the tone remains more lighthearted and cheerful. *Perelandra*, by contrast, has many darker but more profound passages in which the awful consequences of disobedience (which may or may not happen) are explored. The sense of danger mounts as the woman faces repeated and relentless pressure from the tempter to violate the one prohibition that she and her husband have been given. (I'm not going to reveal what that is here; you'll have to read the story yourself!)

Perelandra is best in making excruciatingly clear what the stakes really are in the Genesis account. It brings out the issues of faithfulness versus disobedience on the deepest levels. In watching the extended conflict drawn out over several chapters, the reader is prompted to consider the characters' choices. It can be a shattering, but ultimately redemptive, experience. What will the woman do? What would I do? How can the tempter be defeated? Is there hope for the world? Where, and in whom?

These books, along with the third novel in the trilogy, *That Hideous Strength*, are not as well known as Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia*, but they are well worth looking into for a bracing interpretation of the biblical story.

CONTEXT

Genesis 3:14-24

Who, what, where, when?

Let's say that your parents are going out to watch a movie and leave you in charge of your younger sister. When they come home, they find you juggling flaming swords with your little sister. There are burn marks on the furniture and gashes in the ceiling. Both you and your sister are bleeding a little. You're in trouble now—and you deserve whatever you get! Your poor choices caused a lot of damage.

Adam and Eve made a very poor choice when they chose to take a bite out of the forbidden fruit. The damages caused by that decision had great consequences that we are still dealing with today. This sin had to be punished.

Because the serpent was the instigator in this whole mess, God started by punishing him. Forced to grovel in the dirt, the serpent would be cursed more than any other animal (vs. 14). It would now be forced to crawl on its belly for all time. There would also be an ongoing hostility between its descendants and Eve's descendants.

Then Eve's punishment was read out. The pain that comes at childbirth would be greatly multiplied, and there would now be a power struggle in the marriage relationship. The wife would desire the husband's place of leadership, and this desire would lead to conflict.

Adam's punishment wasn't any better. Because of their sin, God cursed the ground. Work would now be hard and painful. Adam enjoyed his work in the garden until this day. But now, everything would be much harder than it was before.

Then there was the punishment Adam and Eve both had to face: death. Sin always leads to death (Rom. 6:23). They were also exiled from the Garden of Eden—forced to leave their home, a perfect paradise, never to return. No one would ever make it back to Eden. Mighty angels guarding the entrances saw to that.

Why does it matter that Adam and Eve were punished for their sin?

It's important to note that in God's punishment, we also see mercy. Just as your parents would have punished you and your fire-sword-juggling sister for your own safety, God removed Adam and Eve from the garden for their own good. If they had stayed and eaten from the **tree of life**, they would have lived forever. Why would that have been a bad thing? Because of their sin, they would have been forever separated from God. So for those who trust in God's Son, death, though a punishment, is also a natural escape from the presence of sin into God's presence.

We not only see God's mercy but also His plan of redemption. God promised that one of Eve's descendants would stomp out Satan and deal with the problem of sin once and for all (Gen. 3:15). God then provided animal skins for Adam and Eve to cover themselves. This was the first time an animal had been killed on earth and hints that our redemption from sin would require a blood penalty. Even this action points forward to Christ. Despite man's terrible choices, God made provision from the very beginning for his redemption.

How does God reveal Himself to be a good Father through His punishments?

CONNECTIONS

Genesis 4:1-12

Let's take a look at some other passages and themes in Scripture.

In junior high, I was invited to a girl's birthday party. It was a dance party—and I hate dancing. Toward the end of the night, a girl walked up to me and said it would be nice if I asked her friend to dance. Again, I hate to dance. But a sense of honor compelled me to walk across the floor and ask the girl to dance. She said, “Maybe later.” It's my first memory of a girl rejecting me. After the *Maybe Later Fiasco*, as it would come to be known, it was a very long time before I asked another girl to dance.

Rejection can be a tough thing and can cause a wide range of reactions. Some people are able to quickly move past rejection as if it never happened. Rejection can cause others to get stuck, making it difficult for them to ever move past it. In Cain's case, it may look like rejection led him to commit the first murder. But there was a deeper issue leading Cain astray: sin. Once sin entered the world, it spread quickly, like wildfire, and it rooted itself deep within Cain, causing all kinds of pain and sorrow.

As the first pair of brothers grew up, Cain followed in his father's footsteps and became a farmer while Abel chose a different path and became a shepherd. Their father, Adam, must have taught them about God and how they were to worship Him. But it seems only one of the two boys took it very seriously. This is evident because when the time came, both brothers brought offerings to the Lord from the fruit of their labor. But there was an unexpected twist—God accepted Abel's gift and rejected Cain's.

This made Cain very angry (vs. 5), but why? When God asked Cain this question, He also issued a warning (vs. 6). With His rejection of the offering, God implied that sin was already at work in Cain. Just as the serpent had stirred up doubt in Eve about the goodness of God and His word, sin was already stirring up doubts about God in Cain. His lack of faith led to his rejected offering.

The book of Hebrews tells us that Abel's faith in God led him to bring an acceptable gift (11:4). Abel didn't bring to God just any old animal as an offering. He brought the best, the firstborn from his flock (Gen. 4:4). By comparison, Cain brought some fruit. Now, we know from other parts of Scripture that it is not the content of the offering that matters to God but the heart behind it (cf. Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4). However, Scripture does seem to emphasize the priority Abel put on his offering to the Lord. We do not have to offer flashy gifts to gain God's acceptance, but real faith in God motivates us to give Him our best.

The content of Cain's gift was not the main problem. It was Cain's heart that caused the Lord to reject him. We cannot know for sure, but it's possible that the only reason Cain brought an offering to God at all was that he knew he was supposed to. Maybe it was because his father told him to do it. Either way, it seems that Cain's lack of faith led him to just go through the motions of worship and offerings. It was not a powerful godliness derived from faith but a false godliness of rule-following and works. Jesus would accuse the Pharisees of the same type of religion.

On rare occasions, Pharisees and religious leaders would invite Jesus to spend some time with them. This was almost always a ploy to catch Jesus in some sort of foolish trap. Once, after inviting Him over for dinner, Jesus sat down to eat without ceremonially washing His hands. The religious leaders were appalled that Jesus wasn't following their man-made traditions and religious rules. Noticing the Pharisees' dismay, Jesus began to correct them. He explained that they had it all wrong. He pointed out that their main concern was merely looking godly, not actually being godly.

The Pharisees were great at following rules, but their hearts were far from God. When it came to following God, the religious leaders were only concerned about their appearance and not their hearts. Jesus held this type of faithless religion responsible for the deaths of all the prophets and apostles, starting with Abel (Luke 11:37-51).

The sin that began in Adam and Eve and that was passed on to Cain not only led him to give God a faithless offering but also grew into jealousy. From there, it grew into an anger that raged so uncontrollably that Cain tricked his brother into following him into a field. At that point, Cain allowed sin to fully overtake him, and he became the world's first murderer. He killed his brother, Abel.

This was not only the first murder but the first death as well. The loss of Abel was the first time Adam and Eve had ever experienced the loss of another human. They must have felt great confusion, pain, and sorrow. Not only did they lose Abel, but they also lost Cain. As a punishment for his sin, Cain was cursed and forced to wander the earth with no place to call home (Gen. 4:12).

Because of sin, Cain did not have faith in God like his brother. Because of sin, Cain became envious and angry. This envy and anger in Cain's heart is where the murder of Abel first took place. That is what Jesus tried to teach the religious leaders. He warned that it was the condition of one's heart that led to all kinds of evil, including murder (Matt. 5:21-22; 15:19). The sin in Cain's heart led to the murder of his brother and his being forced from his home.

Sin had a much more devastating effect on Adam and Eve than their banishment from the Garden of Eden. It separated them from God. And it cost them the loss of both their sons. Sin always leads to death (Jas. 1:15).

CHRIST FOCUS



Cain's murder brought about the first spilling of human blood recorded in Scripture. It was not something Abel did that motivated Cain to kill him. It was the sin in Cain's own heart. In murdering his brother, Cain's sin reached its peak. We often try to blame other people's behavior or our circumstances for our sin, but James 1:14 tells us that "each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed." We are responsible for our own sins. Cain's murder of his brother demonstrated man's sin nature inherited through Adam and Eve.

The spilling of Abel's blood had a strange effect. When God confronted Cain about his brother, He told Cain that Abel's blood cried out to Him from the ground (Gen. 4:10). And the cry was for vengeance (justice). Centuries later, Jesus would have His blood spilled in the dirt as well. Like Abel, it would be a crime against Him that He certainly didn't deserve. He was completely innocent. But unlike Abel, Jesus' blood wouldn't cry out for vengeance. His blood would cry out for "better things than that of Abel" (Heb. 12:24).

The blood of Jesus, even though it was unfairly spilled, speaks of forgiveness and grace. Abel's life was taken from him, but Jesus' life was freely given (John 10:17-18). This loving sacrifice brought about the forgiveness of sins (Heb. 9:22).

DOCTRINE

*The Fall of Man
and Original Sin*

📖 Romans 5:12-21

Let's explore the truth.

My body aches, I have a fever, and I cough. Why? You guessed it. I have a cold. I caught it from my daughter, who had it last week. My wife is also beginning to show early symptoms. I imagine that in a week my whole family will have the illness. It started with just one of us but quickly spread to all of us.

Sin is much worse than a cold—and you don't have to catch it from someone. Everybody already has it. Adam and Eve were tempted by the serpent and chose to disobey God. Through their disobedience, sin and death came into the world and infected everyone.

Being the first created man, Adam was a representative of the entire human race. Because he was infected by sin and death, those consequences spread to the rest of us. The sin was passed down from generation to generation like a hereditary trait. Now sin is something we are all simply born into (Ps. 51:5). We are also all guilty of sin (Rom. 3:23). It came to all of us through the act of one single man, Adam (5:12).

Just as sin entered the world through one man, Adam, grace and forgiveness also came through one man, Jesus. Sin and death came to all of us through one choice. But forgiveness and eternal life also came to us through one choice. Adam, a created man, was the original man, so he represented all the men born after him (Rom. 5:14). Jesus is the **Second Adam**. He too came to earth in bodily form as

But why would God do that?

Why should we be punished with sin and death for a dumb choice that was made thousands of years before we were born? Of course, we have all sinned and all deserve judgment, but if we are born into sin, that means we are born into judgment too. But is this fair? Why would God allow this? Theologians have debated this for centuries, and it's one of those things we can't know for sure. But we do know that God would not have done it unless it brought more glory to Him than the alternative. So one of the reasons we are born with a sin nature is so He can glorify Himself by showing us His mercy through offering us redemption in Christ. And remember, His glory is the bedrock of our ultimate well-being and happiness.

Even though God gave us mercy, the doctrine of original sin still strikes some people as wrong. I mean, who wants to be told that they are naturally broken and need to be fixed? However, we must remember that God didn't have to give us a way to be redeemed; in fact, He didn't have to make us at all. He made us for His glory, so let's glorify Him by praising Him for His mercy and goodness instead of doubting Him.

*“Adam’s sin plunged the human race into condemnation; Christ’s death brings right standing with God. Adam hid from God; in Christ we have free access to God!”
—Warren Wiersbe**

a man—born of a virgin and therefore without sin (Matt. 1:18)—to represent all mankind. All may face death because of Adam, but all can be made alive again through Christ (1 Cor. 15:21-22). While it is true that one man, Adam, brought sin and death into the world through his disobedience to God, it is also true that one man, Jesus Christ, redeemed mankind through His obedience to God.

Understanding **original sin** is essential for salvation. We cannot be good enough to get to heaven, because we are already corrupt from birth. Let us be grateful for a God who came to represent us all and save us in His grace (Rom. 5:20).

*Wiersbe, *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the New Testament*, Victor

WORLDVIEW



LIE: The consequences of sin are isolated and not very serious.

You lied. You were caught. Then you were grounded. You lay there on your bed, staring at the ceiling and fuming over not being able to text or watch TV or play video games. This is a direct consequence of your sin. But have you ever thought about how sin—sin in general—affects the world around you?

Sin is part of the universal human condition (Ps. 14:2-3; Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:8). If you study the opening chapters of Genesis, you can find a number of specific consequences of sin. Here are seven:

- 1. Guilt and Shame (Gen. 3:7)** - At the end of the second chapter of Genesis, we see that Adam and Eve were naked and not ashamed. Yet after they disobeyed God, they immediately felt shame. They quickly covered themselves. Like Adam and Eve, we try to deal with our guilt and shame by covering it up too.
- 2. Separation from God (Gen. 3:8)** - At the time of day when they were accustomed to walking in the garden with their Creator, they instead hid when they heard His voice. Their sin severed their relationship with God. Like Adam and Eve, we're naturally disconnected from God and would rather hide from Him than face up to the fact that we've rebelled against Him.
- 3. Spiritual Warfare (Gen. 3:15)** - God told Satan, who had taken the form of a talking serpent, that he would bruise the heel of the woman's Seed (descendant—the first prophecy of Jesus) but that her Seed would crush his head. This means human history is filled with this battle between Satan and God.
- 4. Relational Strife (Gen. 3:16)** - God told Eve that her and Adam's relationship would be deeply troubled because of sin. Eve would challenge Adam's leadership. In return, Adam would be a harsh leader. As it did with Adam and Eve, sin disrupts our relationships too.
- 5. Environmental Chaos (Gen. 3:17-18)** - Adam is told that the earth is going to work against him. As a farmer who worked the earth, Adam would now find it much more difficult to live off the land. Even the created world is under the curse of sin. The apostle Paul says that all of creation groans, longing to be made new (Rom. 8:22-24).
- 6. Physical Death (Gen. 3:19)** - It's not that God didn't warn Adam and Eve. He told them if they ate of the forbidden tree, they would die. But that didn't stop them. God told Adam that he was made from dust and that one day, because of sin, he would eventually return to dust. The Bible says it is appointed to every person to die and after that to face the Creator (Heb. 9:27).
- 7. Moral Confusion (Gen. 3:22)** - There is an interesting pattern in the first two chapters of Genesis. God creates stuff and says, "It is good." Then God looks down and sees that Adam is alone and says, "It is not good." God is the one who decides what is good and what is not good.

But Adam and Eve wanted to decide what was good and what was not good on their own. The rest of the Old Testament illustrates how confused we get when take morality into our own hands. We take what is good and call it evil, and we take what is evil and call it good (Isa. 5:20).

TRUTH: Every part of us and our world is affected by sin.

APPLICATION

1 John 1:8-10

What is the Lord calling us to do?

There was a popular TV show that all my friends loved when I was in first grade. I used to lie and tell my friends that I was involved in different aspects of the show. I told this lie so much that I think I actually started to believe it. I'm pretty sure I was the only one who believed it, though. My friends were smarter than I was.

We can all be guilty of lying to ourselves about different areas in our lives. Maybe we tell ourselves that we are more talented than we really are. Or maybe we tell ourselves that we are more popular than we really are. We may even tell ourselves that we are less sinful than we really are. This last one is actually quite common. We look around and start to compare ourselves with other people and think, *At least I'm not as bad as she is.*

Because of Adam and Eve, we all have an inward bent to sin (Rom. 5:12). Thinking otherwise would only be an attempt to deceive ourselves (1 John 1:8). The truth is that we are all sinners (Rom. 3:23). As a matter of fact, we are probably worse sinners than we are even aware of. The Bible says that our most righteous acts are nothing more than filthy rags before God (Isa. 64:6).

Being aware that we have a problem with sin will help us lean more on Jesus and His grace and forgiveness. Adam and Eve may have introduced the world to sin, but Jesus wipes away that sin.



Thinking

Why do you think you sin even you know it will have bad consequences? What does sinful behavior have to do with how much faith you have in God?



Feeling

How do you feel after you have done something you know goes against God's Word? What do you do with those feelings (cf. 2 Cor. 7:10)?



Doing

Confess your sins to God, then find a trusted friend or spiritual mentor and ask that person to pray for you to help avoid those temptations (Jas. 5:16).

TAKEAWAYS

We are all sinners. There is no escaping sin. Because of Adam and Eve, we are born with a sin nature that leads us away from God.

Sin always has consequences. Adam and Eve were punished and kicked out of the garden. Cain was cursed and forced from his home. Sin always negatively affects us and those closest to us.

Jesus provides eternal life. While sin entered the world and all mankind through Adam, Jesus brought the chance for forgiveness and eternal life.