

# OUR SIN WRECKS GOD'S GOOD CREATION

## THE STORY: FALL

### **BIG TRUTH: OUR SIN WRECKS GOD'S GOOD CREATION**

Romans 8:18-22; Genesis 3:17-19; James 1:15; Romans 1:22-23, 5:12; Isaiah 59:2

### **BIBLE VERSE: GENESIS 3:8-9**

*And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"*

### **BIG IDEAS**

- Sin wrecks our relationship with God.
- Sin wrecks our relationship with creation.
- Sin wrecks our relationships with others and ourselves.

### **BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 3:8-24**

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, the good creation that God had made was broken. Sin entered the world through their disobedience and nothing was ever the same. Death and sorrow became a part of every person's life and Adam and Eve were separated from God. Our sin wrecks everything.

### **THE STORY**

The Story is the good news of the gospel. All of Scripture tells the Story of God the Father's work to redeem a people from the power of sin through God the Son so that they might live for His glory through the power of the Holy Spirit. During this series we will explore the four main movements of the Story of God, and our response to the life-altering Gospel Story!

### **BIG AIMS**



#### **Every student should know that:**

- God is the author, subject, and hero of the gospel story
- Salvation comes by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone



#### **Every student should feel:**

- Brokenness over the depth of our sin against God
- Joy in Jesus, our Savior and King



#### **Every student should strive to:**

- Describe the gospel message through Creation, Fall, Redemption, and New Creation
- Memorize the Bible verse each week



#### **Every student should want:**

- To study the Bible so that they can better understand God's story of redemption
- To share the gospel story with those who are separated from God in their sin

### **GUIDES AND WORKOUTS**

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.

# OUR SIN WRECKS GOD'S GOOD CREATION

## BIBLE VERSE: GENESIS 3:8-9

*And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"*

### Sin leads to feelings of guilt and shame.

*"And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God..."*

- Before Adam and Eve disobeyed God, life was perfect in the Garden of Eden. They enjoyed a daily relationship with God and they were free from shame and guilt because they had not broken God's law.
- After they disobeyed God, they were no longer free of guilt. They were the opposite—guilty. They had broken God's law and His creation. Now they had guilt and shame because of their sin. We, too, are sinners and break God's law. We have guilt and shame because of our disobedience.

### Sin separates us from God.

*"...and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees in the garden."*

- In the beginning, Adam and Eve were not separated from God. They enjoyed daily fellowship with Him. Their relationship was good and unhindered by sin. After they ate the forbidden fruit, their relationship with God changed. They were separated from Him because of their sin.
- Our sin separates us from God. We are all born sinful and because of this sin, we there is a great divide between God and us. We do not naturally seek God, so as we live, our sin leads us away from Him.

### Sin puts us under God's judgment.

*"...But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?""*

- After Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, their eyes were opened to right and wrong and they understood they had disobeyed God. They hid themselves from Him, afraid to be in His presence. Before they disobeyed Him, they had not been afraid of Him. Sin changes relationships.
- Our sin puts us under God's judgment. Just as Adam and Eve had to face God's judgment for their disobedience, we all are under His judgment for our sinfulness. Unless we repent and believe in Jesus as our Savior, we will face God's final judgment and be held accountable for our sin.

# OUR SIN WRECKS GOD'S GOOD CREATION

## BIG IDEA #1: SIN WRECKS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.<sup>1</sup>

### [ THIS ]

In Genesis 2, Adam and Eve enjoyed a good relationship with God. Nothing hindered this relationship. There was no sin leading to shame and guilt that caused them to hide themselves from God. They enjoyed God as their Lord and Ruler. Trust had not been broken; life was not changed. They experienced God as their Father, trusting Him to guide them and direct their lives. They had uninhibited communion with Him. Before sin, things were perfect. There was peace on earth and between God and man. Adam and Eve lived in harmony with the rest of God's creation. Life was good.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**Read Genesis 3:8-10. How was the relationship between God and man different before Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit?**

In Genesis 1:28-31, we see that God's relationship with man was good and perfect. All that God had created was good. God assigned man a place and position in creation. Genesis 2:25 teaches us that man was comfortable with God and their relationship was unhindered by anything, even nakedness.

### [ THIS ]

Genesis 3:7-8 shows us the effects of sin in the Garden of Eden. Once Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, life changed immediately. They felt shame and guilt, something they had not felt before. They felt a fear that led them to hide from God, not a fear that led to reverence and worship. Their sin broke their relationship with God. The perfect relationship they had once experienced was changed. Sin breaks our relationship with God. Because of our sin nature, we are all born separated from Him and our sin leads us away from Him, not toward Him. What was once good and perfect is wrecked by our sinfulness.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**How does sin lead us away from God now?**

The prophet Isaiah compares the sweeping away nature of sin to the wind in Isaiah 64:6. Our sin does not lead us toward God and His righteousness, but away from it. Galatians 5:19-21 reveals the works of our flesh and that the consequence is eternal death and separation from God. James 1:15 shows us that our desires are naturally sinful, leading us away from God.

**What is repentance and what does it look like to live a life of repentance in everyday life?**

In 1 John 1:9 teaches us that when we confess our sins, God faithfully forgives us. Repentance and forgiveness are essential to a right relationship with God as Proverbs 28:13 shows us. Acts 3:19 also teaches us the importance of repentance. Acts 17:27 shows us that those who seek God find Him. Part of having a right relationship with God is seeking Him. Hebrews 11:6 teaches us the connection of faith to our relationship with God. James 4:8 shows the connection between drawing near to God and confessing and repenting of our sins.

1. Genesis 3: 8: *Before their sin, Adam and Eve never hid themselves from God. After they sinned, they were afraid of Him and hid among the trees.*

# OUR SIN WRECKS GOD'S GOOD CREATION

## BIG IDEA #2: SIN WRECKS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CREATION.<sup>2</sup>

### [ THIS ]

Genesis 1:31-2:1 shows us the perfection of God's creation. All that He made was good. The natural world was perfect and functioned perfectly. There was no sin in the world, which means there was no death. God gave Adam and Eve dominion over the earth. Life was exactly as it was meant to be. There was no sorrow, no decay, no natural disasters, no fighting. Everything in life happened perfectly because there was no sin to disturb it.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### **How have you experienced the brokenness of God's creation?**

Genesis 3:21 tells us that God made clothing for Adam and Eve from the skins of animals, ushering in death to the world. When Jesus returns, the earth will be made new, implying that it needs to be made new. Revelation 21:4 shows us that one day, when the earth is made new, there will be no death or sorrow in it.

### [ THIS ]

When Adam and Eve sinned, God's perfect creation was broken. Death entered the world and things that were once eternal began to die. The natural world began to deteriorate and to decay. What God had made perfect, man had distorted by his sin. Pain and sorrow became a part of every person's life. Man no longer enjoyed easy dominion over creation. The ground no longer easily yielded food for man, and the animals no longer lived in harmony. Work became hard and had changed forever. Natural disasters would become part of life on earth and the world would begin to gradually die.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### **What are some challenges of living in a broken world as a follower of Christ?**

Genesis 6:1-5 tells us the result of the brokenness of creation. Man's sin in the world multiplies and makes the world more sinful. Mark 7:21 tells us of the wickedness of man's heart and this wickedness affects God's creation.

#### **Even today, how do we see the effects of man's sin on the world?**

Often it's easy to think that creation is broken because of Adam and Eve's sin, but man's sin continues to cause death and destruction on the earth. In Matthew 24:6, Jesus is teaching about the things that will occur on earth as it nears its end. James 4:2 teaches us the effects of our sinfulness on life on earth. Sin corrupts everything, and our sin breaks God's good creation.

2. Genesis 3: 15-17: Our sin has broken our relationship with creation.

# OUR SIN WRECKS GOD'S GOOD CREATION

## BIG IDEA #3: SIN WRECKS OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS AND OURSELVES.<sup>3</sup>

### [ THIS ]

Genesis 3:16 shows us that man's sin affected human relationships. Because of man's sin, the relationship between men and women, husbands and wives was changed. Instead of desiring to be her husband's helper, in her flesh, a woman desires to rule over her husband. Men do not easily care for their families, lead as naturally and easily, or live in harmony because of sin. Work became hard and in some cases is a burden lacking any joy. Peace and harmony no longer characterized human relationships, as they were replaced by strife and enmity. What was once perfect and peaceful became disjointed and difficult.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### **How do marriages today reflect the brokenness of human relationships because of our sin?**

In 2 Timothy 2:23-25, we see the results of our sinfulness and the way it impacts our relationships. In Matthew 19:8-9, Jesus teaches that in Moses' day many were divorcing because of the hardness of their hearts. Divorce is a product of our sinfulness that wreaks havoc on marriage. Philippians 2:3 tells us to do nothing from our selfish ambition and to count others as more significant than ourselves. This command is necessary because our sinfulness makes us do otherwise.

#### **What habits or disciplines can we establish to have good relationships with others?**

Proverbs 8:13 teaches us that we should hate pride and prideful speech. In order to truly hate it, we must confess it in ourselves and repent of it. Colossians 3:12 tells us to put on humility and it lists some of the fruit of the Spirit that we should put on in order to live in harmony with others. When we humble ourselves before God, we will live in a right way with others.

### [ THIS ]

Man's sin affected our souls. Sin changed the nature of people and has led people to live lives of heartbreak and strife. We do not relate to ourselves as we should because of our brokenness. Instead of understanding our created purpose and God-given value, we search for significance in other things, just as Eve did when she ate the forbidden fruit. We head down paths of destruction instead of seeing ourselves as created for God's glory. We either think too highly of ourselves or too lowly, both of which result in our not living a life that truly brings God glory in every way. We often miss out on opportunities to glorify God because our sin has blinded us and distorted our view of ourselves

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### **How does sin hurt our relationships with others (parents, siblings, friends)?**

Galatians 5:19-26 lists the works of our sinful flesh. Because of our sin, we are instructed in Proverbs 12:20 and 16:7 that deceit and strife are in the hearts of sinful people and when we pursue God, even our enemies are at peace with us. These instructions are necessary because our relationships are changed by our sinfulness.

#### **How does sin affect the way we view ourselves in relation to other people?**

Often we can think too lowly of ourselves, or focus on aspects of ourselves that God does consider when using us. 1 Samuel 16:7 shows us that God cares about the inner parts of man, not the physical complexion. 1 John 3:2 shows us that God sees His followers as His children. Alternately, we may also think too highly of ourselves. Romans 12:3 warns us to consider ourselves with sober judgment.

3. Genesis 3: 15: The curse of sin was strife and enmity between man and woman. Every relationship changed because of sin.