

To the Teacher

The information below is to help you in teaching the lesson. DO NOT read this page to the students. Instead, teach the information in your own words. Be sure to finish the student's lesson as well. The Scripture references in parentheses are for additional study, to round out the information given in the lesson. Become familiar with these passages as well, to provide additional Scriptures to your students.

Lesson 8 – No One is Perfect (Teacher's Lesson)

Opening: Answer the opening question. Help students understand that sin is a habit, but we can also cultivate a habit of justice.

Study Notes:

Genesis 2:15-17

In this passage, the specific commandment of God regarding the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil is to not eat the fruit of the tree. Another point to teach is that Adam was alone when this commandment was given. Eve had not been created yet. It was Adam's job to teach God's commandments to his wife. Some people blame Eve for taking the fruit first, but Adam at least equally shared the blame. He was there with her, too (Genesis 3:6), and could have said no.

Genesis 3:1-6

1. The first thing that the devil did was to plant doubt of God's Word in the mind of Eve (Did God really say...?). He also suggested that God's command was more restrictive than it really was by asking if God had said they couldn't eat from any tree in the garden.
2. Eve went beyond God's commandment by saying that God told them not to touch the tree. God never said that.
3. The devil used a half-truth ("You will be like God, knowing good and evil."), and a direct lie ("You will not certainly die.") to trick Adam and Eve. They would know right and wrong (verse 7), but they would not be "like God." And they would surely die. They would die physically, but they would also die spiritually the moment they disobeyed. Separation from God (the cause of sin) is spiritual death (Ephesians 2:1-2).
4. Sin followed a definite progression in Eve's heart. First, she saw the fruit. Here is where the majority of sin begins – we see something we want and we begin to think about it (James 1:13-15). After she saw and thought, she took the fruit. The actions of our thoughts let sin enter into our hearts and minds. After she sinned, she also gave to her husband. When we sin, we want others to follow us, so that we do not feel so bad with ourselves.

Romans 1:18-23

The main sin in this passage was to worship other gods before the one, true God. This is really the essence of all sin. When we substitute or worship other gods besides God, we become spiritually blind and unable to see the truth.

Although God's plan of salvation cannot be known without the knowledge of God through the testimony of another Christian by Scripture, we also have enough to know about God through His creation that gives us an idea that we need to know more.

Romans 1:24-32

The phrase "God gave them over..." is repeated throughout this passage. When we decide to do things our own way and sin, God gives us the freedom to turn away from Him. He is not happy about this, but He will not force us to follow Him.

Romans 2:1-4, 17-24

The Jews in Paul's audience would have agreed with him through Chapter 1. They believed they were people chosen by God and that all the other people were sinners. They tended to see clearly the sin of others, but were completely blind to their own.

Romans 3:9-20

Now Paul teaches us that, in reality, there are no "good people." Every one of us has sinned (3:23), and this separated us from God and puts us all in the same category – of sinners. The Law of God is perfect and not a single human can keep it perfectly. The purpose of the law is to teach us God's standard of perfection and to make us conscious of our sin. When we are aware of our sin, we quickly become conscious of our need for a savior.

Summary: Human beings are intrinsically sinners by nature and education. We live in a fallen world and our behavior reflects that. God's standard, while still perfection, creates a problem. How can man, who is imperfect, reach God's standard of perfection? Only through Jesus Christ.

Application: Help students to identify areas of weakness in their lives for which the rest of the class can pray. Ask the members to share specifics with one another and take time to pray in pairs or small groups for spiritual growth of every person.

Lesson 8 – No One is Perfect

Oops! I did it again!

What is the most difficult habit you have ever tried to break? Were you successful?

The Slippery Slope of Sin

The last lesson we studied spoke of the holiness of God. In this lesson, we will look at sinful man. A perfect example of sin is found in Genesis chapter 3 – the fall of Adam and Eve. Before we look at this, however, we need to read the command of God. Read Genesis 2:15-17 and write below the specific command of God with respect to the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Now we are going to see what happened. Read Genesis 3:1-6 and answer the following questions.

1. How did the serpent (the devil) insinuate doubt into Eve's mind (*verse 1*)?
2. How did Eve go beyond God's command (*verse 3*)?
3. Which lies and half-truths did the serpent use to finally convince Eve to take the fruit (*verse 4*)?
4. What was the progression of sin in Eve when she took the fruit (*verses 5-6*)?

Of course after all of this happened, there were consequences. Adam and Eve could no longer live in perfect communion with God. They were forced to leave the garden and death came to the perfection that God had created. We can occasionally be tempted to blame Adam and Eve for their sin, but the truth is that any of us would have done the same thing in their place. Man is a sinful creature.

The Downward Spiral

In the first chapters of Romans, Paul describes the sin of man. Read the verses below and answer the questions.

Romans 1:18-23 – What is the main sin in this passage?

If someone told you, “It’s not my fault for not worshipping God. I didn’t know Him,” what would be your response, based on this passage?

Romans 1:24-32 – What is the repeated phrase that describes God’s response to sinful man (v. 24, 26, 28)?

Romans 2:1-4, 17-24 – Who is Paul speaking to in this passage?

What were they doing that he criticized?

Romans 3:9-20 – According to this passage, who is a good person?

What is God’s purpose in giving us the commandments, if we are not good enough to obey them?

As you can see, all of us are below God’s standard (Romans 3:23). What are some ways you constantly fail? What are some specific ways the group can pray for you this week to help you live more according to God’s will?

Scripture to Memorize:

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
Romans 3:23