Open Bible Stories

Sin Enters the World

## 0 Introduction

### 0.1 Key Idea

The story of the fall teaches us how sin entered into the world.

### 0.2 Creedal Verse

“So then, as through one man sin entered into the world, in this way death entered through sin. And death spread to all people, because all sinned.” Romans 5:12

### 0.3 Metanarrative Summary

The eternal God created all things in six days. He made a good and perfect world. He made humans in his image to fill the earth and rule over creation. But humans rebelled against God and ruined God’s creation.

## 1 Biblical Interpretation: Observing the Details of the Story

After reading the crafted biblical story, answer the following questions to familiarize yourself with the details of the story.

### 1.1 Observation Questions

Answer the following observation questions to gain a basic understanding of the the story. Read the story as a community and answer these questions as a group.

#### 02-01

What kind of life did Adam and his wife have in the garden?  
Adam and his wife were happy and naked.

Why were Adam and Eve not ashamed that they were naked?  
There was no sin in the world.God created everything.

#### 02-02

What animal spoke with Eve in the garden?  
A snake spoke to Eve.

What was the snake like?  
The snake was very crafty.

What was the snake’s first question to Eve?  
He asked, “Did God really tell you not to eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?”

#### 02-03

From which tree were Adam and and his wife not allowed to eat?  
They were not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

What did God say would happen if Adam and his wife ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?  
He said they would die.

#### 02-04

What did the snake say was the reason God did not want them to eat the fruit?  
He said God was lying because God did not want them to understand things like he did.

#### 02-05

Why did the woman eat the fruit?  
She saw that it was beautiful and delicious, and she wanted to be wise.

What did the woman do after she ate the fruit?  
After the woman ate the fruit, she gave some to her husband who was with her.

Were Adam and his wife forced to eat the fruit?  
No, they freely chose to eat the fruit and disobey God.

#### 02-06

What happened when the man and woman ate the fruit?  
After the man and woman ate the fruit, their eyes were opened and they realized they were naked.

What did the man and the woman do when they realized they were naked?  
They sewed leaves together to make clothes.

#### 02-07

Who did Adam and Eve hear walking in the garden?  
They heard the sound of God walking in the garden.

What did God say to them?  
God asked them where they were.

How did Adam answer God?  
He told God that they hid because they heard his sound and were afraid.

#### 02-08

What were the next questions God asked the humans?  
He asked who told them that they were naked and whether they ate the fruit God had forbidden.

How did the man respond when God confronted him about his sin?  
He blamed the woman.

How did the woman respond when God confronted her about her sin?  
She blamed the snake.

#### 02-09

What was God’s curse on the snake?  
You will slide on your belly, and the woman’s descendant will crush your head.

How would things be between humans and snakes?  
There would be hatred between humans and snakes.

#### 02-10

What was God’s curse on the woman?  
You will have painful childbirth, and although your desire will be for your husband, he will rule over you.

#### 02-11

What was God’s curse on the man?  
You will work hard to grow food, and you will die and return to the soil.

What name did the man give to his wife?  
He named her Eve because she would be the mother of all humans.

What did God do about the humans’ nakedness?  
God clothed Adam and Eve with animal skins.

#### 02-12

How did God prevent Adam and Eve from living forever?  
He sent them out of the garden containing the tree of life and guarded the entrance with powerful angels.

### 1.2 Translation Questions

Use the following translation questions to understand specific details of the passage. Discuss how you might translate these specific elements of the story.

#### 02-01

**garden** This **garden** refers to a special collection of trees and plants that God prepared for Adam and Eve to enjoy and from which to eat. How would you speak of a **garden** as an area of land planted with trees and plants that produces food and provides beauty?

  

**shame** Shame is the feeling that comes with knowing we have sinned or that we fall short in some way. What word in your language mean **shame** as in disgrace or dishonor?

  

**sin** Sin involves actions, thoughts, and words that are against God’s will and laws. What word in your language means **sin** as in disobeying God by doing something that God does not want us to do?

  

#### 02-02

**snake** A **snake** is an elongated, legless creature that now moves by wiggling on its belly. How would you refer to a **snake** as in a legless reptile that slithers/crawls on the ground?

  

**crafty** To be **crafty** means to be clever and sly, with the intent to deceive. What words in your language mean **crafty** as in being skillful at deceiving others?

  

**Did God really tell you not to eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?** The snake asks this question but already knows the answer to it. He was asking this question to create doubt in the woman’s mind and question God’s goodness. How would you phrase the question **Did God really tell you not to eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?** in a way that clarifies that the serpent is trying to cause the woman to doubt what God actually said?

  

#### 02-03

**fruit** This is a general word for food that grows on trees. The specific **fruit** is not mentioned here. What general word in your language means **fruit** as in the food that a tree produces?

  

**If you eat that fruit or even touch it, you will die.** The woman says that eating or touching the fruit will cause one to die. She does not repeat God’s command correctly. God said not to eat the fruit. He did not say not to touch it. How would you phrase you will die as in the end of one’s physical life?

  

#### 02-04

**like God** The man and the woman were already made in the likeness of God. The snake is suggesting that the woman would be more **like God** if she understood evil. However, God never intended for her to have this knowledge. How would you phrase **like God** to mean sharing characteristics or being similar to God?

  

**understand good and evil** The snake is suggesting that eating the fruit will cause the humans to know from personal experience what things are good and what things are bad. How would you phrase **understand good and evil** to mean knowing things that are pleasing to God and things that are not pleasing to God?

  

#### 02-05

**wise** The woman wanted to have insight and understanding like the snake seemed to have, and like God has. What word in your language means **wise** as in someone who understands what is the right and moral thing to do and then does that?

  

**the fruit was beautiful and looked delicious** The fruit was appetizing and looked good to eat. How would you describe the fruit as beautiful and delicious as in the fruit looked appealing and good for food?

  

#### 02-06

**their eyes were opened** After the man and woman ate the fruit, they now understood something for the first time. How would you express **their eyes were opened** to mean that the man and the woman came to realize something they did not previously understand?

  

**they realized they were naked** After the man and the woman disobeyed God, they felt ashamed that they were naked. That is why they used leaves to try to cover their naked bodies. How would you express **they realized they were naked** to mean that at this time the man and the woman became aware that they were naked?

  

#### 02-07

**God walking** Although God is spirit, it seems that God regularly came to the garden to walk and talk with the man and the woman. We do not know what this looked like, but it could mean that God appeared in some form as he walked through the garden. How would you say **God walking** as would be used to talk about a person walking?

  

**Where are you?** God already knew the answer to this question. The purpose of the question was to force the man and the woman to explain why they were hiding and to acknowledge God was speaking to them. How would say **Where are you?** to ask someone to identify their whereabouts in order to call their attention?

  

**because I was naked** The word because explains that the reason Adam and Eve were afraid was that they were naked. Adam and Eve were fearful **because** they had come to know that they were naked and they were ashamed of their nakedness. How would you express **because I was naked** to mean the reason Adam and Eve were afraid was that they were naked?

  

**So I hid** The word so explains the result/outcome of Adam and Eve realizing they were naked. When Adam and Eve realized they were naked, they hid. How would you express **So I hid** to mean the result of Adam and Eve realizing they were naked was to hide?

  

#### 02-08

**The snake tricked me** The snake deceived or misled her. He lied to her. Don’t use a word that indicates that he cast a spell on her or bewitched her. The woman blamed the snake rather than confessing her disobedience and accepting responsibility for disobeying God. How would you say the snake tricked me to mean the snake misled the woman by lying to her?

  

#### 02-09

**You are cursed!** God speaks a curse on the snake. A curse means to cause bad things or great harm to come upon someone or something. A curse is the opposite of blessing. How would you phrase you are cursed to mean that God would bring hardship and harm upon the snake? (The word you choose should not imply magic.)

  

**will hate each other** The woman would hate the snake and the snake would hate the woman. The women’s descendants would also hate the snake’s descendants, and the snake’s descendants would hate them. How would you phrase **will hate each other** to mean that there would be hostility between the woman and the snake?

  

**will crush your head** The descendant of the woman will destroy the descendant of the snake. What word in your language means crush as in to flatten something with the heel of one’s foot?

  

**will wound his heel** The descendant of the snake will wound the descendant of the woman. What word in your language means wound as in to harm or injure?

  

#### 02-10

**childbirth very painful** Because the woman disobeyed God, God says that he will cause the woman to have much more pain when she gives birth to children. How can you express **childbirth very painful** to mean that the woman would experience a lot of pain when she gives birth to children?

  

**rule over you** As a result of sin, the man would have power over the woman. How would you express **rule over you** to mean the man would exercise authority over the woman?

  

#### 02-11

**the ground is cursed** As punishment for Adam’s disobedience, the earth would no longer be fruitful. Adam would have to work very hard to raise enough food to eat. How would you express **the ground is cursed** to mean that the ground would not be fruitful in producing food?

  

**you will die** The ultimate punishment for their disobedience was death. How would you phrase **you will die** to mean that life would come to an end?

  

**life-giver** God gave life to Adam and Eve, and it is passed on to every person through childbirth. Eve would be the female ancestor of all later generations. How would you express that Eve is the **life-giver** as in the one through whom human life would be passed on to future generations?

  

#### 02-12

**they must not be allowed** God is saying that he does not want humans to eat the fruit of the tree of life. How would you express **they must not be allowed** to mean that God was intending to prevent or prohibit them from eating the fruit of the tree of life?

  

**the tree of life** This was an actual tree with fruit. If a person ate this fruit, he would live continually and never die. How would you express **the tree of life** to mean a tree which gives people life?

  

## 2 Theological Dialogue: Discussing the Meaning of the Story

Take time to explore the meaning of this story together as a community. Use the following discussions as a way to grasp what truth the story teaches.

### 2.1 Discourse Questions

##### Why was life in the garden so happy? (02-01)

##### Why did the woman and the man eat the fruit? (02-02, 02-03, 02-04, 02-05)

##### What happened after the woman and the man ate the fruit? (02-06, 02-07, 02-08)

##### How would God’s curse effect creation? (02-09, 02-10, 02-11)

##### What did God do for the man and the woman? (02-11, 02-12)

### 2.2 Theological Questions

Answer the following theology questions as a community. Discuss what truths this story teaches.

1. What does this story teach us about sin? What does the temptation and disobedience of Adam and Eve teach us about sin?
2. What are consequences/effects of sin? What takes place after Adam and Eve disobeyed God that teaches us about the negative results of sin?
3. How is God able to deal with sin? What did God do in this story that showed his intention to deal with sin?

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## 3 Personal Reflection: Following the Teaching of the Story

Take a moment to allow this story to evaluate your own life and to consider how God would have you respond. After this reflection, use the quality checking questions to check your translation draft among the translation team.

### 3.1 Journal Reflection

Prayerfully think about the following personal reflection questions. Write/Record your answers and/or discuss them as a group.

1. How have you experienced temptation to sin?
2. What lies do you believe that cause you to disobey God?
3. How have you experienced the negative consequences of sin in your own life?

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