

## Digging Deeper

### The Bible in One Verse?

- With the possible exception of John 3:16, no verse is more crucial and definitive than Genesis 3:15.
- 1<sup>st</sup>, it establishes a principle that runs throughout the Old Testament, creating an expectation of a Redeemer that would be a descendant (a “seed”) of Adam and Eve.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>, it establishes the parameters by which God will redeem His people from their sin. God’s method of grace is costly: the heel of the Savior will be bruised. This contrasts with the blow the serpent receives (the crushing of his head). This points forward to the shedding of substitutionary blood.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>, the principle of the victory of God over Satan is established from the beginning.

## Family Activity

- Discuss God’s grace.
- Because God is gracious, we should be gracious. Remembering how gracious God has been to us, His enemies (read Rom 5:10), we should be gracious to everyone, including our enemies (read Matt 5:43-48).
  - Showing grace to others is a matter of dealing kindly with them, even if they don’t deserve it. Do a “random act of kindness” for a stranger. Ideas: Hand out a water bottle, return someone’s shopping cart, pay for the next person’s food in the drive-thru line, give flowers to a random person. As a family, get creative.

# Devotional Guide

## For Individuals and Families (Issue #3)

### THE JOURNEY’S HOPE

What Adam and Eve soon learned is that Satan had deceived them. While eating the forbidden fruit did open their eyes to new realities, they did not gain godlike power at all. What they experienced more than anything else was shame. Sin and shame make it impossible to feel comfortable in God’s presence. The next time God came to the garden, Adam and Eve hid from Him (Genesis 3:8-10).

Due to their disobedience, God banished them from the garden. No longer could they eat fruit from the tree of life. There was now a world where death reigned unchecked. From the Garden of Eden onward, sin has grown in magnitude and scope. Every man and woman have become its victim, and wherever sin spreads, it puts barriers between God and mankind, just as it caused Adam and Eve to hide when he drew near.

To remove those barriers, God made a special promise to Eve. Before he sent her from the garden, He promised that one of his descendants would eventually crush Satan’s head, receiving a painful bruise in the process (Genesis 3:15). Without being specific, God seemed to imply that this act would somehow reverse the damage that occurred when Satan deceived Eve.

We will understand this promise more fully when we come to the New Testament. There we will see Jesus dealing Satan a crushing blow. For now, we only need to recognize that God had a plan from the beginning to rescind what Satan had done. Shame and death would not be the last word. God had a plan to overcome them both.

**Journey Through the Bible**  
**Journey to a Better Family**

**Mile Marker**  
**Genesis 3:15**

## WHERE IS HOPE?

As for Adam and Eve, heartache and tragedy awaited outside the garden. Genesis 4 opens with Eve giving birth to a son. She calls him Cain. In Hebrew his name speaks of a great hope that she placed in him. Perhaps she thought he was the one who would reverse what sin had set in motion. But her hopes proved sadly mistaken. Cain became a criminal, murdering his own brother Abel. Eve had looked to her son for hope, to no avail. Others in the Bible will also anchor their hope to some person or group of persons. But as Eve learned, building our hopes around human beings can be deeply disappointing. That is why God wants us to center our hope on Him, His promises, and His steadfast promise-keeping. Discuss these 5 Ways to Hope in God when you feel hopeless:

1. Seek God's Heart. Read Psalm 147:11.
2. Be Patient in Waiting. Read Romans 8:24.
3. Listen to the Wisdom of Others. Read 2 Corinthians 1:4.
4. Recall what God has done in the past. Read Psalm 119:90.
5. Expect the Unexpected Turn-Around. Read Romans 8:28.

### Discussion Questions:

\*After Adam and Eve sinned, they felt ashamed. How would you describe the difference between guilt and shame?

\*Search Genesis 3 for the answer to this question: What promise did God make to Adam and Eve before he banished them from the Garden of Eden?

\*Read Genesis 3:7-10. When Adam and Eve sinned, notice the immediate effects. They covered up, were afraid of God; hiding from him in the garden; Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the serpent. Discuss how sin impacts our lives in similar ways now and how relationships with God, one another and the environment are still very much impacted by sin.

## GOALS THIS WEEK

### SUNDAY

- Review/Discuss notes from Bible class.

### MONDAY

- Read THE BIG STORY from page #1
- Discuss the questions on page #2

### TUESDAY

- Complete "Where is Hope" from page #2

### WEDNESDAY

- Review/Discuss notes from Bible class.

### THURSDAY

- Read and work on MEMORY VERSES below

### FRIDAY

- Use DIGGING DEEPER from page #4 as a guide for discussion.

### SATURDAY

- Complete FAMILY ACTIVITY from page #4

## MEMORY VERSES

Genesis 3:1, "Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

Genesis 3:15, "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."