

Study Series: The God Who Is There

Author: D. A. Carson

Lesson Title: “The God Who ” (pp. 22-35)

Session 2

September 10, 2023

The main point of this lesson is: We deserve death for our sin, and there are consequences for our sin, yet God offers hope even then.

Focus on this goal: To help adults come to grips with the seriousness of their sin

Key Bible Passage: Genesis 3

Before the Session

Obtain a drinking glass to bring to class. (Steps 4-5)

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Ask: When people get all worked up about a new movie or restaurant, do you more likely join in the hype or ask, “What’s the big deal?” What do you observe in our culture that indicates many people ask, “What’s the big deal?” about sin?

Declare: As we navigate our way through Scripture to know the God who is there, we must come to grips with the seriousness of our sin.

Step 2. Rebellion (Gen. 3:1-6), Part 1

Request a volunteer read Genesis 2:8-9;15-17. Determine what the man and woman were free to do and what they were not to do.

Invite someone to read Genesis 3:1-3. Use Day One remarks (pp. 22-23)along with John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 11:14; and Revelation 12:9 to determine what we can know about this serpent.

Evaluate how the serpent was tempting Eve by asking, “What’s the big deal?” Analyze how the serpent and woman exaggerated what God said.

Discuss the Day One Note (p. 23).

Step 3. Rebellion (Gen. 3:1-6), Part 2

Ask a volunteer to read Genesis 3:4-6. Consider how the serpent denied God’s word and character. Ask: Why is Satan so intent on getting people to deny the doctrine of judgment?

Analyze how the serpent’s words to the woman contained both truth and falsehood. Ask: How does Satan continue to mix truth with lies today and why is that so effective?

Discuss Day Two, activity 1 (p. 25). Ask why the woman ate the fruit. Explore why it was wrong to eat the fruit since it was all of those good things.

Read the Day Two paragraph (p. 25) beginning with “We should not think that the serpent’s temptation . . . .”

Step 4. Consequences (Gen. 3:7-13)

Request a volunteer read Genesis 3:7-13. Display a drinking glass and ask its intended purpose. Turn the glass upside down and ask what would happen if you tried to pour water into it. Agree there would be a mess because the glass is no longer functioning as it should. Use the first paragraph of Day Three (p. 26) to explain how that upside-down glass illustrates what happened in Genesis 3.

Direct adults to silently read Genesis 2:25 and 3:7 and identify an immediate consequence of rebellion. Ask what solution the man and woman came up with for their shame. Ask: How have people been doing that ever since? How was it obvious they knew their solution wasn’t adequate? [they hid]

Consider ways people try to hide from God today. State all efforts to hide from God are like a toddler playing hide and seek by covering her eyes; but our attempts at hiding aren’t cute, they’re tragic. Consider why that is so.

Request adults read the questions God asked Adam. Explore why those questions were kind and gracious. Ask: How did Adam answer God’s questions? Whom did he blame first? What inevitable result of guilt did Adam and Eve display? How is self-justification idolatry?

Draw attention to the upside-down glass. Explore how God’s good gift of relationships got inverted at the Fall.

Step 5. Curses (Gen. 3:14-19)

Ask a volunteer to read Genesis 3:14-19. Evaluate how the curse against the serpent is good news for the rest of creation.

Analyze how the consequences for Adam and Eve struck at the heart of their roles in fulfilling the creation mandate of Genesis 1:28. Again, draw attention to the upside-down glass. Ask: How did God’s good design for marriage get turned upside down with the man and woman’s rebellion? How does that emphasize that sin really is a big deal?

Note their sin even caused the ground to be cursed. Discuss Day Four, activity 2 (p. 30).

Step 6. Effects (Gen. 3:2-24)

Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 3:20-24. Determine the effects of Adam and Eve’s rebellion. Ask: What had to happen for their shame to be covered? Discuss Day Five, activity 1 (p. 31).

Use the conclusion remarks in Day Five (pp. 31-32) to guide the group to reflect on how Genesis 3 fits into the Bible and our lives. Discuss Day Five, activity 2 (p. 32).

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Ask: Based on what we’ve explored today, why is sin such a big deal? Why must we accept the truth that sin is a big deal? Where is the hope in a lesson like this?

Declare: We must grasp the seriousness of our sin, but we must also grasp the graciousness of God. We’ve seen in Genesis 3 and will continue to see throughout Scripture that the God who is there is the God who does not wipe out rebels. Urge participants to consider how they will live in light of that truth this week.

Close in prayer.

