

# I Need a Savior

A Bible Study Series of The Mt. Zion Church

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**Introduction:** The following lesson is intended to help students understand the crucial need all of us have to be saved. We are born into a condition which separates us from God and are in trouble. We need help. In order to receive help, we need an understanding regarding why Jesus qualified as The Christ (The anointed one of God). When He was born, it identified the faithfulness of God’s word which prophesied a child that would be born, where he would be born, and the conditions of his birth. In short, God fulfilled everything He said through the prophets. This gives us confidence in whom we have believed and in God’s ability to do everything He says! Leading up to the celebration of Jesus’ birth, it makes sense that we are sure what scripture says about why we need Jesus because He was given as a gift of God, to all of us, to save us from our sin problem! Happy learning!

### **I. What Really Happened?**

If we are going to make a case that Jesus is the savior, we should first begin with an understanding of our need for a savior and God’s plan to provide one.

The general definition of **savior** means “One who delivers or rescues.” The term “savior” is most frequently applied to God and Jesus Christ in the Bible. The idea that mankind needs a savior begins in Genesis when Adam disobeys God and eats the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge.

Let’s read Genesis 3: 1-15

Satan promises mankind a half-truth and half a lie! Which part was true? Which part was the lie?

Activity 1: Satan’s Promise: Underline the true part and underline the lie.

<sup>4</sup>You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup>For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Students should understand that the truth (verse 5) is an experience God did not want Man to encounter. The serpent implies that God is withholding information as if He is hurting them. We must remember that God does not withhold from us because He is mean. He withholds from us to protect us (often from ourselves). Similar to a parent desiring to protect a child from certain experiences and struggles, God (the ultimate Father) knows what is best for us to experience and to not experience. Thus, His command to “leave that tree alone” was to help us and not to harm us!

**Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire:** Genesis 3: 4 says “You will not surely die.” They eat

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*God does not withhold from us because He is mean. He withholds from us to protect us. Would you as an adult give car keys to a five-year old and let them drive? Why not?*

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and they are still walking around alive. Hmm? What happened? The answer is in the meaning of “to die.” To die means for one to be separated from life. A person is no longer living. Since God is the source of life (see Deuteronomy 32: 39), to be separated from God means one is spiritually dead. If a person does not choose

to reconnect with God (the source of life), he or she will experience eternal death which is an eternal separation from God.

When Jesus speaks of life, He is emphasizing the same ideas from Genesis.

- “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly” **John 10:10**
- “For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.” **John 5: 21**
- **John 5: 39-46**

**What does it mean to be alive?**


As students, we should understand that the LIFE God intended for us to have, was corrupted due to sin. The problem is further shown in verses 8-9.

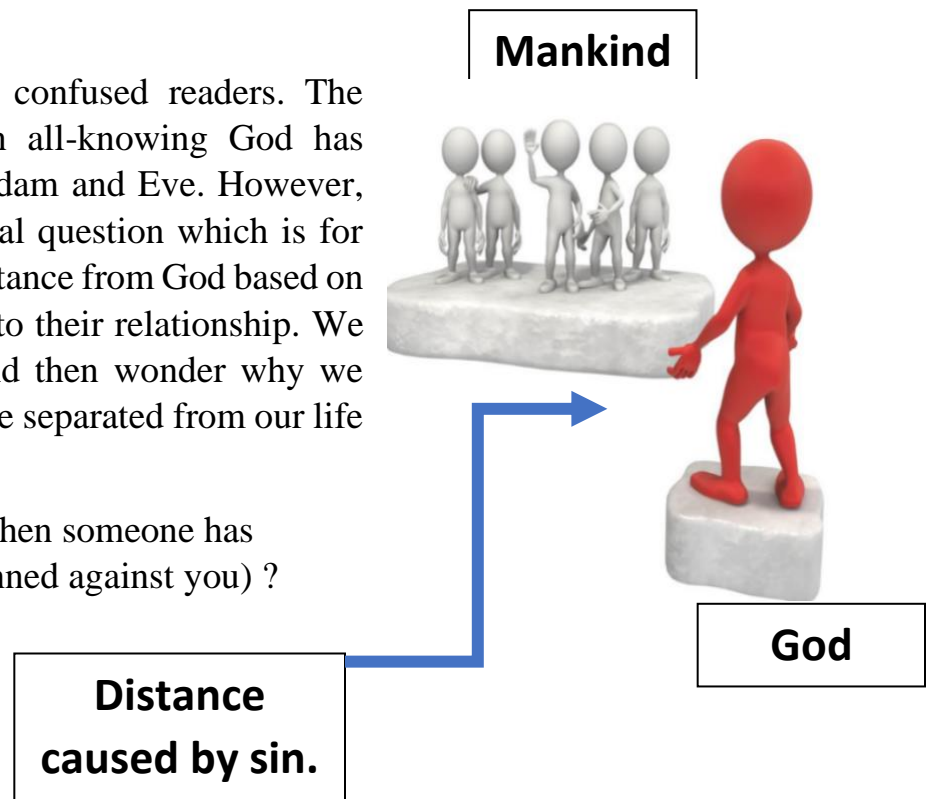
## II. The Example of Real Death (Separation from Life)?

Genesis 3: 8-9 Exemplifies the Problem

**<sup>8</sup> Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”**

This question has often confused readers. The question implies that an all-knowing God has somehow lost sight of Adam and Eve. However, the question is a rhetorical question which is for Adam to reflect on his distance from God based on the introduction of sin into their relationship. We break the relationship and then wonder why we feel empty!!! Duh! We are separated from our life source!

1. How do you feel when someone has mistreated you (Sinned against you) ?  
Close or distant?



- Genesis 3: 15 is God’s first hint of a solution

The war expressed in the term “enmity” (Genesis 3: 15) lets the reader know that (crush head and strike heel) an ongoing battle will be had between the seed or offspring of mankind and the enemy of mankind (not snakes) which is understood to be Satan.

The imagery also gives a clue as to how the battle will end. To strike at the heel is to create an injury, while crushing the head is a fatal blow to the one who has been attacked. Thus, in God’s curse to the serpent, he indicates that the “seed of woman” (The Savior) will overcome the plan of the serpent.



1. Based on what we just learned, explain why we need a savior.

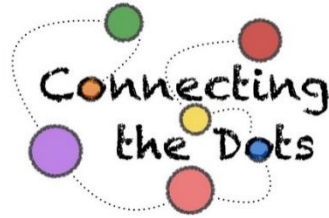

2. Explain the imagery God uses in Genesis 3: 9 and 15 to describe Mankind’s sin problem.


### III. What Did God Do to Fix Our Problem?

Now that we understand the need for a life-giving savior, we need to further understand God’s plan to send us a savior. This clear explanation begins in Genesis 12: 1-8. The first clue comes in Genesis 3: 20-21.

What does verse 20 tell us? Eve’s name means “Mother of ALL LIVING!” There is a hint in Eve’s name which indicates that through her life will come. ALL LIVING means “totality of life.” Satan’s promise is that they will not die (a lie). Eve’s name, coupled with God’s curse of the serpent (enmity with the offspring of Eve) hints that there will be one to come who will bring a totality of life to mankind.

Verse 21 teaches that God does not utilize the coverings that Adam and Eve made for themselves. In short, they were not adequate coverings. To solve their “nakedness,” God kills an animal and covers them Himself. Again, God is showing His ultimate by implying that we cannot “cover” ourselves. We will always come up short and what we do will always be inadequate. Therefore, God, Himself, solves our problem by sacrificing a “lamb” to cover our sins (See Revelations 13:8, Isaiah 53:7-9).



Now let's take a look at Matthew 1:1 and 2-18. In verse 1 we identify the connection between Abraham whose name identifies Jesus as part of the promised family in general. We also see David's name which identifies Jesus in the direct lineage of the king. This gives us the connection back to God's promise of blessing the world through Abraham's family. And as we

look to Luke 3 (Mary's Lineage) and Matthew 1 (Joseph's Lineage), we are able to connect the family lines which fulfill God's promise in Genesis 3 regarding the one who would come and solve Mankind's sin problem. All of this points to our need and God's plan!

Have you ever considered that God knows what we need even before we need it? This reality is shown in the Plan of Salvation. As Revelation 13: 8 shows, Jesus died before the foundation of the Earth was even laid. In other words, God had this all prepared just for us!

Understanding this lesson should enhance your joy and appreciation for God's gift of Jesus. John 3:16 tells of God's capacity to love us. He "so" loved the world that He gave His son. God loves us so much that He will go to the Nth degree to offer us help, deliverance, salvation!