

CHRISTMAS SERIES

I Need Jesus!

A Bible Study Lesson of

The Mt. Zion Church

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December 3, 2025

Introduction: Welcome to the first lesson in our journey toward understanding *why* Jesus was given to us as God’s greatest gift. Before we can celebrate the glory of His birth, we must understand the problem His coming was designed to solve.

Every human being enters the world carrying the same spiritual problem—**we are separated from God**. Not because God doesn’t love us, but because humanity, beginning with Adam, chose disobedience. Sin created a distance we cannot cross on our own. We needed someone—a **Savior**.

And God, in His unstoppable faithfulness, didn’t leave us guessing about His plan. Long before Jesus was born, God spoke through prophets describing *where, how,* and *why* the Christ would come. Every prophecy fulfilled in Jesus’ birth reminds us:

God keeps every promise He makes.

As we move toward the celebration of Christ’s birth, let’s rediscover why that manger in Bethlehem was more than a peaceful scene—it was Heaven’s rescue mission. Jesus was God’s gift to us; sent to save us from the sin problem we could never fix on our own.

Let’s dive in.

Happy learning!

I. **What Really Happened?** —Genesis 3: 4-5

4 “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”



If we want to proclaim that *Jesus is the Savior*, we must first understand **why** we need saving and **how** God set His rescue plan into motion.

A savior is simply **“one who delivers or rescues.”** Scripture uses this title for Jesus because the entire

biblical story points to one great truth:

Humanity needs rescue, and God provided the Rescuer.

That need becomes painfully clear in the very first chapters of Genesis. Adam and Eve—created for fellowship with God—believe a lie, disobey God’s command, and trigger the devastating chain reaction called *sin*.

Let's read **Genesis 3:1–5** together.

3 The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the LORD God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?"

2 "Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden," the woman replied. 3 "It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, 'You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.'"

4 "You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. 5 "God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil."

In this moment, Satan offers humanity a dangerous combination: **half-truth, half lie.**

- The **truth?** Their eyes would be opened.

Here's what we must grasp:

The Truth (v. 5):

Yes—their eyes *would* be opened. But this was an experience God never intended for them to carry. The serpent twisted truth to imply God was keeping something good from them, as though God were insecure or stingy.

But God never withholds out of cruelty. He withholds to *protect*, just like a loving parent wouldn't hand car keys to a five-year-old. Not because the parent is mean, but because they love that child too much to let them hurt themselves.

God's command, "Leave that tree alone," was not a punishment—it was protection.

Consider the following: How often do you look at God's boundaries as a punishment? Give an example!

The Lie (v. 4):

"You will not surely die."

They ate. They were still standing. So... was Satan right?



Not at all. The problem is that many people define “death” incorrectly. Remember, Satan’s job is to deceive us. This is the same deception he tells us daily when we think sin doesn’t bother God. We must always remind ourselves of the impact of sin. Sin creates DEATH.

Death means separation from life. Here is the step by step understanding we need to have.

1. God *is* the source of life (Deut. 32:39).
2. To be separated from God is to be spiritually dead.
3. Physical life may continue for a time, but spiritually they had been cut off—disconnected from the One who is Life itself.
4. Unless a person reconnects with God through His Savior, that separation becomes eternal.

This is exactly what Jesus came to reverse. Listen to His words:

- **“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”** — *John 10:10*
- **“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*
- (See also *John 5:39–46*)

Jesus came as the gift from God who restores what Adam lost—**connection, life, hope, and relationship**. The reason we need a savior is 100% the fact that we cannot reconnect to the source of life without someone stepping in to be that connection for us. This is why we need a Savior. Our explanation of Jesus and the Christmas story cannot be told without telling how we have a major problem that we cannot overcome. When God sends His son it has eternal meaning and eternal impact. This is why He is the greatest gift we could ever receive.

Deeper Thinking Questions

1. Why is it important to understand the problem of sin before understanding the solution of Jesus?
2. In what ways do you see Satan still using half-truths to deceive people in our world?
3. How does the idea of spiritual death (separation from God) change the way you understand and talk about what happened in Genesis 3?

II. The Impact--Real Death--Genesis 3:8–9

⁸ When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden. So, they hid from the Lord God among the trees. ⁹ Then the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

What’s actually happening here?

- Adam and Eve **heard** God — His presence was still real.
- But instead of running *toward* Him, they **hid**.
- Something had changed inside them.
- Sin didn't just break a rule — it **broke a relationship**.



The serpent had not given them the full picture because the enemy always seeks to hide the impact of sin. Sin causes shame (vs. 7). Sin causes fear (vs. 8). Sin causes distance and we must confront where we are in relationship to God (vs. 9). Notice the question God requires the two of them to answer. “Where are you?”

Why would God ask, “Where are you?” if He knows everything?

God’s question wasn’t for **information**. It was for **reflection**. When you sin, do you ever consider the distance that it causes between you and God? Between you and others?

God was really asking:

- “Do you see how far you’ve moved away from Me?”
- “Do you feel the distance that sin has created?”

Humanity had never hidden from God before.

Now they were hiding from their **source of life**.

This is what the Bible calls *death* — not just physical death, but **spiritual death**:

“For the wages of sin is death...” — Romans 6:23a

Death = *separation from the One who is Life.*

Deeper Thinking Questions

1. How do you see people facing the same issue of shame, fear, and misunderstanding of sin's impact occurring today?
2. If Christmas is about God coming to find us, what would it look like for you to step out from hiding and respond to Him?

III. God's Solution—Genesis 3: 15

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

God's response to humanity's fall begins with a curse—but it is a curse filled with promise. What first appears to be judgment against the serpent becomes the earliest announcement of redemption. Each participant receives consequences, demonstrating that God's justice is perfect, thorough, and impartial. Scripture consistently affirms this truth: God is never a passive observer of human sin. He sees, He evaluates, and He responds with righteous judgment. Yet even as He speaks words of judgment in Eden, He simultaneously reveals His commitment to restore what has been lost. The God who judges also initiates salvation.

In Genesis 3:15, God speaks directly to the serpent, and His words go far beyond the animal itself.

The introduction of “enmity” signals that from this moment forward, humanity will be locked in a spiritual and ongoing conflict with the forces of evil. This is not mere fear of snakes. Scripture later identifies the serpent as Satan, the deceiver of the whole world (Revelation 12:9). God's solution begins as a battle between God's people and the enemy who seeks to destroy them and sever their relationship with their Creator.

The contrast between “striking the heel” and “crushing the head” reveals the nature and outcome of this conflict. A strike to the heel suggests real injury—painful, harmful, and deeply wounding—yet not fatal. Humanity and the coming Savior will experience real suffering. But the God reveals early in Scripture that although the enemy will wound, deceive, and attack, his power will not prevail. The promised Rescuer—born of the woman will crush the head of Satan. This signifies a final and fatal blow. The savior will ultimately destroy the enemy—Satan.

In Eden’s darkest moment, God plants a seed of hope. The very curse that pronounces judgment also reveals grace. In the ashes of rebellion, He announces the coming of Christ—the One who will undo the serpent’s work, restore what sin has shattered, and offer humanity a reason to give thanks even when surrounded by brokenness.



Deeper Thinking Questions:

1. If God reveals both justice and mercy in the same moment, what does this teach us about His character—and why is this important for understanding the meaning of Christmas?
2. The “enmity” God establishes suggests a lifelong struggle between humanity and spiritual evil. Where do you personally see evidence of this struggle in your own life, and how does the promise of Christ’s victory help you face it?

Conclusion:

As we consider the earliest chapters of Scripture, we see both the tragedy of sin and the triumph of God’s grace emerging side by side. Adam and Eve’s rebellion introduced separation, shame, and spiritual death into the world, but God’s response was not abandonment. Instead, He stepped into the chaos to pronounce justice on the serpent and offer hope to humanity. Long before the manger, long before shepherds or angels, God declared that darkness would not win. The birth of Jesus is the fulfillment of that ancient promise, the arrival of the One who would crush the serpent’s head and bring life where death once reigned.