

The Man and the Woman
Genesis 3: 16-20

Objective: The students will consider how God's punishment of Adam and Eve explains the world as we find it today.

Introduction:

We have been studying the beginning of things in Bible time. We started with the first man and the first command. What was the first command that God gave? (not to eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil) Then we read about the first woman. How was the first woman uniquely created? (from a rib of the first man)

Then the command was broken. The first man and the first woman decided to believe the snake's lies instead of believing God's word, the word that God had spoken to the man. And so they felt new emotions. What were the new, terrible emotions that they felt? (shame, fear and guilt)

Then last week, we saw God beginning to punish. He started with the snake. What was the snake's punishment? (to crawl on its belly and eat dust) And in the middle of that first punishment, God gave the first promise. What was the promise? (that a descendant of the woman would kill the snake, crush the head of the snake. that Jesus would completely defeat Satan.)

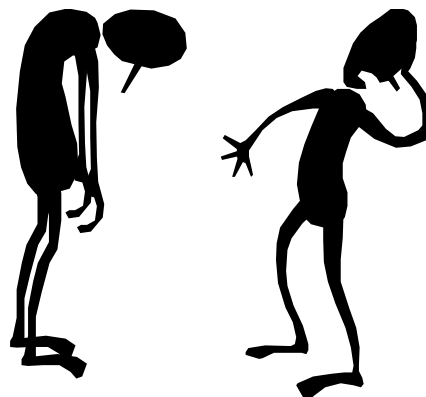
Now today we go on to hear what God said to the man and the woman.

Questions:

- What was the woman's punishment? (pain in giving birth)
- What was the man's punishment? (hard work)

Read Genesis 3: 16-20

Answer the questions.



Possible threads to follow:

1. We still see today that women have pain in giving birth, and that men have to work very hard (especially in Japan!) This seems very natural to us, but we learned today that the Bible teaches that it was not always so. Giving birth did not have to be a painful pain. (brainstorm some 'easy' pains, like the pain in your muscles after you start exercising) Also, the man had work to do from the beginning, but it was not so hard, but very pleasant. These situations point to the fact of sin in the world.
2. What did God say about the ground (in verse 17)? He cursed it. Notice that he cursed the ground, not the man or the woman. Even though the man and the woman had disobeyed Him, God still loved them. But He cursed the ground. Look at verse 18. What will the ground produce? Thorns and weeds. We look at nature, and we think everything is natural. But we see here that the Bible teaches that nature has been changed. Nature was originally different. Nature is also under the effects of sin. (Romans 8: 20. Notice the hope that nature will also be set free from its curse, like the children of God will be set free from sin.)
3. A natural hierarchy was disrupted. God -> husband -> wife. During the first sin, the woman took control and the man let her. The man gave up his leadership. In speaking to the woman God was restoring the original, perfect order. But 'rule over you' is not a bad thing, it only feels bad because we are rebels against God in our hearts. For a look at the marriage relationship - and how a husband was to 'rule over' his wife, see. Ephesians 5:25. In love. Christ gave Himself for the church, He died for the church. This is the kind of love husbands should have for their wives.
4. Even though the woman ate first, the man was held responsible for the entry of sin into the world. See Romans 5: 12, 18, ff. and I Corinthians 15:22.