

The First Shedding of Blood

Genesis 3: 21-24

Objective: The students will begin to see the relationship between the shedding of blood and the forgiveness of sin.

Introduction:

We have been studying the beginning of things in Bible time. We have seen the beginning of many things that are still a part of our world and our lives. What are some of these things? (fear, shame, guilt, not believing God, pain in giving birth, hard work) We have also seen that nature is not quite natural. Nature is not quite the same as it was in the beginning. What has happened to nature? (God cursed the ground.) God cursed the ground, causing it to produce thorns and weeds.

And today we end our Bible times in Genesis. Today, too, is a beginning. It is the beginning of the rest of the history of all people everywhere. It is not a happy story, but it is a hopeful story. In this world hope can be more important than happiness.

Questions:

- How did God dress them? (He killed an animal and used the animal's skin)
- Why did God force them out of the garden? (so they would not eat from the tree of life and live forever)

Read Genesis 3: 21-24.

Answer the questions.



Possible threads to follow:

1. Blood. Its characteristics and why it is important.
2. Blood and forgiveness. Leviticus 17:11 (and it reads very nicely in the NCV)
This first act of God, slaughtering the animal for its skin, pointed to the animal sacrifices that would remove the sins of the people of Israel, which point to the once for all, perfect sacrifice of Christ on the cross to remove the sins of everyone who believes.
3. Eating from the tree of life. Adam and Eve now knew shame, fear and guilt. How miserable (terribly unhappy) they would be to live forever in shame, fear and guilt. This is not what God wanted for people. In His mercy, He puts an end to our shame, fear and guilt in death. And He offers the original life of perfect joy and love to all who will believe in Him. God does not make us believe, but He invites us to believe in Him. (Not believing in God leads to disobeying God which produces shame, fear and guilt.)
4. The tree of life shows up again in Revelation 22: 1, 2. This is telling about heaven. All who believe will eat from the tree and live forever.
5. Working the garden vs. working the ground. Compare Genesis 2:15 with Genesis 3: 23. Just as God gave the woman more pain in giving birth, He gave the man more pain in working. Now, instead of a garden, he had only the ground. And the ground was cursed. "The ground from which he was taken." This is very humbling. In verse 19 God tells Adam that he will return to the dust. So working the ground was a reminder of his coming death.