

LESSON 4

Name _____

The Fall of Man Genesis 3

Directions: Read the cited scripture passages and related biblical footnotes to help you to fill in the blanks for each item.

1. In chapter 1 of Genesis we learn that God created the world and, because God is a good and loving being, all things God created are _____. (see Gn 1:4, for example)
2. For the Jews, this caused a problem. If God is good and if God created everything, then everything and everyone in the world should be _____.
3. We know, however, as well as the ancient Jews did, that this is not the case. There can be much evil in the world. The question on their minds, then, was “Where did _____?”
4. Chapter 3 of Genesis attempts to answer the question of evil and its origins. Read chapter 3. It tells the story of _____. (see the chapter heading)
5. If we accept the story in Genesis 3 as literally true, then evil is the result of listening to a talking snake and eating certain _____.
6. Now we know from experience that snakes don’t _____ and that eating certain fruit is not what causes _____ in the world.
7. These are details that the biblical author uses to convey a deeper and more important truth. It is not so important that Adam and Eve ate the fruit. What is important is that they did not do what God wanted. Instead they did what they themselves _____.
8. Our God is a loving, caring God and therefore wants us to be people who are both _____ and _____.
9. When we choose our own selfish ways and not God’s ways, then we bring not love into the world, but _____.
10. So evil does not come from God who is love, but from ourselves when we _____.
11. Thus we see that it is not God’s fault that people are starving. The fault lies with people like ourselves who have a great surplus of material goods and who refuse to _____.
12. If certain races or types of people are hated and treated badly, it is because we choose not to love them and treat them with the respect due to all human beings. We, not God, decide to _____.
13. If elderly persons are alone or neglected, it is because we choose not to _____.
14. In all these examples, evil comes into God’s good creation because people like us choose evil. Evil cannot exist unless we _____.

Lesson 4 continued

15. Because we choose to cooperate with evil, our world is often a sad place. Beginning in Genesis 3:16, the Bible paints a picture of the kind of life that results from choosing our own selfish wishes. This inclination we have toward selfishness is called the original sin. It is found in all _____.
16. The picture is not hopeless though. In Genesis 3:15, God first hints at who will enable us to overcome our inborn selfishness and choose goodness and love. The “offspring” who will be our Redeemer and who will break the power of evil over us will be the one named _____. (see footnote on Gn 3:15)
17. God knows how hard it is for us to overcome our self-interest. The only way we will ever learn how to be as concerned for the good of others as we are for the good of ourselves is to receive an abundance of undeserved love. This is exactly what God gives to us. Even though Adam and Eve turned away from God, God still shows continuing concern for them in Genesis 3:21 where God makes them a set of _____.
18. Despite God’s care, however, people continue in their selfish ways, choosing evil instead of good. Genesis 4 describes the first _____.
19. What selfish motive did Cain act out of in killing his brother? _____. (Gn 4:5)
20. Some people may think that temptation always leads to sin, but in Genesis 4:7, the Bible teaches us that temptation can be _____.
21. In the book of Genesis, evil continues to flourish in the world until, as Genesis 6:5-6 states, it became so great that God _____.
22. God, however, never abandons creation and his people. Genesis 6 begins the story of how God would purify the world and give it another chance by means of a _____.