

What is Man?

Journal Questions

LESSON
ONE

IN THE BEGINNING



THIRD MILLENNIUM

MINISTRIES

Biblical Education. For the World. For Free.

Journal Questions

1. Some contemporary theologians teach that Adam and Eve were not historical people but merely “metaphorical” figures. How might this claim threaten our historic Christian faith? How would you defend the historicity of Adam and Eve?
2. Read Psalm 8 and meditate on it. Make a list of all the things Psalm 8 teaches you about your dignity before God. What does God think of you, since you have been created in his image?
3. How is human dignity being upheld and promoted by the society where you live? How is it being undermined or damaged? What can you do to defend humanity's God-given dignity within your realm of influence?
4. What are some common beliefs about human origins that exist in your culture? How do these views compare and contrast with the Christian view?
5. Scripture tells us that our bodies will be resurrected in the new heavens and new earth. How might this be an encouragement to our Christian brothers and sisters who have physical illnesses or disabilities? How can this hope help us minister to them without undermining the seriousness of their physical conditions?
6. Although the physical and immaterial aspects of our beings are interrelated, we sometimes focus on one over the other. What is the danger in doing this, and how can we give proper attention to both?
7. Scripture tells us that the priestly and royal roles assigned to Adam and Eve in the Garden have been passed on to us. How are you fulfilling this calling in your life? How does this energize you to continue with your work?
8. What is the most significant thing you learned in this lesson?

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LESSON
TWO

THE IMAGE OF GOD



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1. What can we learn about ourselves from the fact that we've been created in God's image?
2. God allowed Adam and Eve to participate in the work he began at creation. What does this suggest about the significance of our vocations, as well as our roles within our families and society?
3. What idols can you identify in your surrounding culture? Which of these do you also see in your own life?
4. In John 14:9, Jesus said, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." How does your knowledge of Jesus as the perfect image of God help you better understand who God is?
5. What does it mean to you personally that God has appointed you as a vice-regent to rule over creation on his behalf? How does this influence the way you minister to others?
6. Give some specific examples of ways that God has begun to renew and restore your moral and rational abilities since you came to faith in Christ. How can you use your experience to help those around you grow as believers?
7. It is an enormous task to reflect God's character. How does God's law guide us in this task? How can we reflect God's character even after we break God's law?
8. We are called to promote dignity and justice for all human beings. What does this teach you about the way you should treat those around you who are unbelievers?
9. Subduing the earth may look a bit different today than it did for Adam and Eve. How are you fulfilling the cultural mandate in your own life and time?
10. What is the most significant thing you learned in this lesson?

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LESSON
THREE

THE CURSE OF SIN



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1. How does sin affect your daily life? How does it affect your relationship with God?
2. When Adam and Eve first sinned, both tried to shift the blame for their actions onto others. According to Scripture, how should we respond when we've sinned? Why is this important?
3. What would you say to someone who asks how a loving God could allow sin and pain and death into the world?
4. Is it good that God gave mankind the freedom of will, or would we have been better off being unable to sin? Explain your answer.
5. How does God's law give us freedom? How does disobedience to God's law make us slaves to sin?
6. Jesus told us that the greatest commandment was to love God, and the second greatest commandment was to love others (Matthew 22:37-40). If sin is fundamentally unloving, how can we express love in practical ways to God and those around us?
7. Scripture tells us that unbelievers live "in the futility of their thinking" (Ephesians 4:17). How can evangelism be successful when unbelieving hearts and minds are darkened by sin?
8. Christians often continue to struggle with the same sins after we come to faith in Christ. What sins continue to challenge you in your walk with Christ? Where have you seen victory in your life over sin? How do you continue to strengthen your defenses against the temptation to sin?
9. What is the most significant thing you learned in this lesson?

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LESSON
FOUR

THE COVENANT OF GRACE



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1. God knew before he created the world that humanity would fall into sin, and he created a plan for our redemption. Why do you think this plan gives God greater glory than if he had simply created humans without the ability to disobey him?
2. Scripture tells us that God chose us for salvation from the beginning. Should this convict believers to live in a certain way? How has this understanding affected the way you live your own life?
3. Without God's grace we will never be able to fulfill the cultural mandate of Genesis 1:28. How is God's grace evident as you strive to fulfill this mandate? How might this encourage others around you who are working toward the same goal?
4. What are three major views regarding how the Spirit works to bring us to faith? Which view do you tend to agree with most and why?
5. Though we live under the covenant of grace, God still demands our obedience. How would you respond to a Christian who believes that as long as we profess faith in Jesus, we don't have to worry about obeying God?
6. Eventually, believers will be in a state of *non posse peccare* — unable to sin. What do you most look forward to when considering this future reality?
7. Older theologians sometimes referred to Adam's sin as a "fortunate" or "happy" event. How would you explain this to someone who has never heard of the covenant of grace?
8. How does the historical development of the covenant of grace's administrations help you better understand how God fulfilled his purposes for humanity in Christ?
9. What is the most significant thing you learned in this lesson?