

Study Hints for Thinking Further

International Bible Lessons

Genesis 3:8-21

Sunday, September 15, 2013

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be the answers to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. What are some of the ways sinners try to hide themselves from God?

In spite of the evidence, some try to deny that God exists, and some call themselves atheists or agnostics; this is one way of trying to hide from God. Some do not read the Bible and some do not believe everything that the Bible teaches; they try to hide from God by not believing in the God of the Bible. Some who read the Bible try to hide from God by saying that some parts of the Bible do not apply to them; such as the moral law of God and the Ten Commandments

with the consequences the Bible teaches will follow disobedience. Some try to hide from God by embracing philosophies and religions other than historic, Biblical Christianity; they try to hide from God by trusting in deceptions and falsehoods instead of in the Bible.

2. When God already knew the answers, why do you think God asked the man and woman questions?

God asked them questions because God needed to teach them (and those who read the Bible) lessons about sin and some of what can happen when people they sin. God treated them as a parent or teacher, who asks questions to help their child or student learn to think better and do what they should do and avoid what they should avoid.

3. Why do you think the man was afraid of God?

The man did not know what God might say or do to him when God faced him after God learned that he had sinned. He knew that when God saw him that God would know that he had sinned, because now he was ashamed and had tried to cover himself. He knew that his sin had changed the way that he felt about God, and he was afraid that his sin would change the caring and loving way that God felt about him.

4. Who did the man and the woman blame for their having sinned against God? How did sin have an effect on their relationship?

The man blamed the woman and the woman blamed the serpent. They did not take personal responsibility or admit personal guilt for having disobeyed God. The woman involved the man by tempting him to sin as she had sinned, rather than tell him that she had disobeyed God and warn him not to disobey God as she had done. The woman who Satan deceived tried to deceive the man, and was successful in leading him into temptation and disobedience. Their relationship of love, honesty, openness, and trust in one another was damaged.

5. What two types of punishment did the man and woman experience? Do people today still experience these two types of punishment?

The first type of punishment God built into their nature when He created them in His image. God has a conscience. God's conscience commends His actions and choices. For example, His conscience commended Him at each stage of His creation, when He saw that what He had done was good (see Genesis 1). Created in the image of God, people have a conscience. Because God gave them a conscience, Adam and Eve naturally felt guilt and shame when they sinned, and they also experienced a damaged relationship. The second type of punishment was the result of God, the Supreme Judge and King of the universe, passing a judicial judgment against them after they disobeyed. He told them

the sentence against them. The woman would experience pain in childbirth and the man would toil in the soil. We learn from this judgment that when we commit sin our sins and the changes that follow have an effect on others, a bad effect; so we should avoid sin for the sake of ourselves and others.

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