

PURE PASSION

AN ATHLETE STUDY

IN THE CREATOR'S EYES

When God created, He said, "*It is good.*" At the pinnacle of Creation, God formed Man from dust and Woman from the rib of Man. He said, "*It was very good*" (Genesis 1:31).

Adam and Eve had the freedom to do *anything* they wanted with one exception. They were not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They could do anything except eat of that tree and it was good—that is, agreeing with what God had called "good." Eating the fruit from the forbidden tree meant disagreeing with God on what he called "good." That, friends, is the essence of sin.

Sin disagrees with God about what he calls "good." Often, our music, movies, video games glorify things that break God's heart.

Sin entered the world when our first parents decided "good" for themselves. They disobeyed God. In their disobedience, just like ours today, they essentially said, "I know better than God." Thankfully, even at the Fall, God knew better. He knew he would send a Rescuer to deliver humanity from the grave we had dug for ourselves.

GENESIS 1:1–6; 14–15

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Bible says in Galatians 4 that in God's perfect timing, God sent out his Son so that we may be adopted as sons and daughters, restoring humankind's relationship from the fall.

When we accept the gracious provision of Jesus Christ as the Snake-Crusher, we are set free from sin and restored into relationship with God. Scan the QR-code to worship and be reminded of the freedom found in Christ.



DISCUSSION

Describe a time when you were told not to do something and got caught doing it anyway. What happened?

ICEBREAKER

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1. In verses 4-5 the serpent "sold" the sin. What would not happen? (4)

What would happen? (5)

OBSERVATION

2. What did God promise Eve's offspring would do to the serpent? (15)

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3. In what ways did each violate God's word during the encounter? (1-6)

The serpent (1, 4-5):

Eve (2-3, 6):

Adam (6):

INTERPRETATION

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4. What sin is promising something better for you than obedience to God seems to provide?

APPLICATION

Do you have any questions about Jesus, or what he has accomplished for you? Don't wait. Talk to your coach as soon as possible.

PURE PASSION

WEEK 1

AN ATHLETE STUDY

STUDY NOTES INTRODUCTION

An 800-pound rock fell on Aron Ralston's wrist, crushing it and trapping him in the wilderness of Bluejohn Canyon. Although an experienced climber, nobody knew where Ralston was. No help would ever find him.

Days went by. Help never came and hope faded. After several days, Ralston realized his life depended on the only option he had left. He leveraged his body against the rocks and broke his own arm. Then using the pocketknife from a cheap multitool kit, he went to work setting himself free.

As we've seen in the introduction, Genesis 1 and 2 tell the story of God's Creation, culminating with those who would bear his Image (Gen. 1:26). Genesis 3 is the pivot on which the whole Bible turns. Before Genesis 3, Adam and Eve knew no shame, no heartache, no struggle or strife. After Genesis 3, humanity would never go a day without experiencing the consequences of their actions.

Our passage, Genesis 3:1–7, records sin's entrance into the world. Like the boulder that fell on Aron Ralston's arm, humanity is trapped under the weight of sin and we can't get free. However, our situation is much worse, Ralston had the ability to cut off his arm to get free. If we truly understood the consequences of our situation, we would happily do the same. Unfortunately, we have no hope of saving ourselves.

PURE PASSION ORIGINATES IN TRUTH

The serpent, Satan, **was more crafty than any other beast of the field**. Something was different here—this wasn't just any ol' snake. Satan's "craftiness" isn't outright hostility, it's deception. Satan doesn't need people to go the opposite way, he just needs them a few degrees off. Notice that as *the serpent* posed the world's first religious question: "**Did God actually say...?**" The question *appears* innocent, but it brought God's character into question. With that question, Satan instilled doubt and distrust in God's goodness. Satan didn't ask them to *hate* God, he just asked them to *trust themselves* more.

Look at Eve's response in verse 2 and you'll notice, first, the woman *omitted* elements of God's lavish provision since he said, "**You may surely eat of every tree in the garden**" (Gen. 2:16). Second, she legalistically *added*, "**neither shall you touch it, lest you die.**" Thus, her response allowed the serpent to sell two lies: 1) "**You will not surely**

die." Translation: God will not judge sin. 2) **God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.**"

Translation: "God has deprived you. Therefore, you can't trust him."

Again, the serpent didn't 100% lie, it just wasn't 100% truth. He deliberately left out key facts. They **would know good**, but without the power to do it. They **would know evil**, but without the power to avoid it. Believing these lies over God's truth, Eve determined that **the fruit was good**. This thing God had determined was not good, and she **took** and **ate**.

She also gave some of it to her husband who was with her. Some of us might be wondering where Adam went during this whole encounter. However, every "you" in the passage could be translated y'all because Adam was there the whole time. Adam couldn't claim ignorance. He was fully informed but sinfully passive (1 Tim. 2:14), and still **he ate it**.

Imagine life without shame or regret. Now, imagine how far Adam and Eve fell as they felt those feelings for the first time. **The eyes of both were opened**, but this wasn't a pleasant feeling—having scratched and intellectual itch. No, for the first time they were scared, **they knew that they were naked**, and they were ashamed. In their feeble attempt to cover their shame, **they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths**.

TRUTH: CHRIST REDEEMS

The rest of Genesis 3 makes clear that God does not ignore our sin. When he entered the garden he called Adam, Eve, and the serpent to himself—notice that Satan had to obey and take his lumps too. The consequences of their actions led to a curse for each. Yet, even in the punishment, hope was found.

As God cursed the serpent, he said, "**Because you have done this, cursed are you... I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.**" God promised a Snake-Crusher would destroy Satan. He would experience pain, the worst Satan could deliver, but that pain led to Satan's destruction. The only question that remained was, "Who will be the Snake-Crusher?"

In the darkest moment, God struck the match that would light the fuse that we watch burn throughout the entire Old Testament. Would Adam and Eve's son, Seth, be the snake-crusher? No. What about Abraham, Moses, or David? No. That fuse burned all the way until it exploded with the appearance of Jesus of Nazareth on the scene in the Gospels.