

GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

EPISODE 1: THE GARDEN

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Main Points

Here are the big ideas you want people to understand:

- God is Creator, the source of all things
- He created a perfect world; in the beginning, all creation was in harmony with God
- God created people in his image and entrusted the world to their care
- Mankind rebelled against God's rule and chose to determine good and evil for themselves rather than trusting and obeying God
- Because of this, they were cast out of paradise and lost God's blessing and fellowship
- Pain, suffering, and death are all consequences of mankind's rebellion

EXPLORING THE STORY

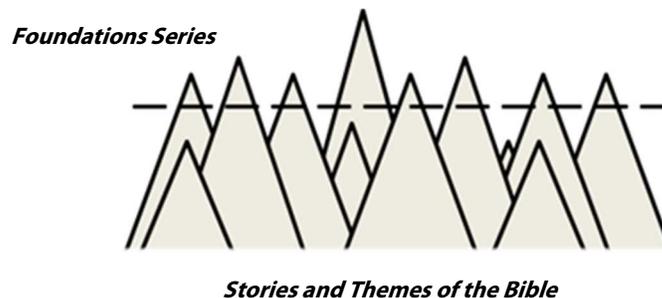
◀ Look Back

As you begin, have people introduce themselves or share what they are hoping to learn. Then introduce the series and the lesson for this week.

1. Introduce the Series

Since this is the first session for our *Gospel Foundations* series, set the stage for where we're going:

“ **This week...** we're starting a series called *Gospel Foundations*. It will help us get a better understanding of the overall story of the Bible. Imagine the stories and themes of the Bible as a range of mountains. We will be looking at the peaks of those mountains – the highlights! This will give you a clearer picture of what God is doing in the world today and how you can be a part of it. We'll also learn about God's plan for the future.



▲ Look Up

Now that you've introduced the series, shift to this week's episode.

2. Setting the Stage

“ This week we'll start at the beginning and see how something that started so well ended up going terribly wrong.

As we read the story, be thinking about these things:

- Why did Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit?
- Why was eating the fruit such a crime?
- What were the consequences?

3. Read **Genesis 3.1-24** and then discuss:

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- What do you like about this reading? What questions do you have about it?
 - The forbidden fruit was from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2.15-17). Why is this important?
 - Why did the serpent claim God did not want humans to eat of this fruit? What did he say would happen if they ate? (vs. 5)
 - What were the immediate results of eating the fruit? (vs. 7-13)
 - Did God curse the man and woman after learning of their disobedience?
 - Why did God cast humans out of the garden? (vs. 22-24)
 - What does this story teach us about ourselves? What does it teach us about God?

► Look Ahead

Help people process the implications of this week's reading and how they should apply its truths to the way they think and live.

4. Implications and Applications

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- As humans, we want to do what is right in our own eyes. We want to call the shots and determine for ourselves what is good and evil, acceptable and unacceptable. But God created us for a different purpose. He wants us to look to him to learn what is good and evil. He wants us to trust him and obey what he says.
 - Do you see in your own life the desire to call the shots and decide for yourself what is right and wrong, what is good and evil? How does this keep you from trusting and obeying God? How can you turn back to God from this old way of living?

5. Closing Prayer