

G O D ' S B I G P I C T U R E

Aim:

Using Vaughan Robert's 'God's Big Picture' (GBP) as our guide, we are aiming to get an overview of the whole Bible story. It can be summarised by the unifying theme:

The Kingdom of God: God's people in God's place under God's rule and blessing

(read GBP pp 20-25 for a fuller explanation)

STUDY 2: The Perished Kingdom Genesis 3:1-24

Key things to teach:

- Sin is rebellion against God; it is not doing what he's told us and seeking to establish independence from him.
- All the perfect relationships established at creation are spoilt because of human sin.

Study Outline:

(see GBP pp 44-46)

Launching Question:

Most people have their own theory why the world is as it is. List (on a large sheet of paper) some of those theories.

READ Genesis 3: 1-7

Look carefully at the dialogue between Satan and Eve: what is the temptation?

How does Satan undermine ... God's word? ... God's character? ... God's authority?

How does Satan use the same tactics today?

What did Adam and Eve do wrong? Why is it so wrong that they end up eating this fruit?

READ Genesis 3:8-24 which describes the consequences that now follow.

Look at the following verses and describe how the relationship between men and women is spoilt because of sin:

Genesis 3:7; 3:12-13; 3:16

Look at these verses and describe how the relationship between humanity and creation is spoilt because of sin:

Genesis 3:17-18

Look at the following verses and describe how the relationship between humanity and God is spoilt because of sin:

Genesis 3:9; 3:23-24

(In each case, don't just read out what the verse says, but ask 'what do you think this really means?')

God said 'in the day that you eat of it, you shall surely die' (2:17). Did they?

What does God's punishment mean for all human beings?

OPTIONAL EXTRA:

READ Romans 5:12-21.

How is the sin of Adam like the death of Christ?

Divide into pairs, and give each pair one of the following passages to look at and ask: how does this show the spread of sin and of death?

Genesis 4:1-16

Genesis 5

Genesis 6:1-8; 7:11-12 and 17-24 (cf Gen 1:2)

Genesis 11:1-9

What signs of hope are there in Genesis 3?

Application

Why is sin so tragic?

Compare the situation at the end of Genesis 2 with the situation at the end of Genesis 3: what has changed?

(Link back to the definition of 'the kingdom of God': no longer his people, not in his place, without rest or blessing.)

In what ways are we guilty of the same sin as Adam and Eve?

What does this passage teach us about God?

What does this passage teach us about why the world is as it is?

how does **Genesis 4:1-16** show the spread of sin and of death?

how does **Genesis 6:1-8; 7:11-12 and 17-24** (cf Gen 1:2) show the spread of sin and of death?

how does **Genesis 5** show the spread of sin and of death?

how does **Genesis 11:1-9** show the spread of sin and of death?