

THE GARDEN

The story of Scripture begins with God laboring for six days on an abundant garden home for humans.

Genesis 1:26 - On day six, humans are created. We are told two things:

(1) They are created to rule over Creation.

Humans are not expendable servants, but exalted partners.

(2) They are created to bear God's image

To reflect His character and values; to "image" Him

Genesis 2:16-17 - This is a garden of freedom, with one restriction.

THE SERPENT

Genesis 3:1-5 - The serpent plants two seeds in Eve's mind:

A seed of DISTRUST

God's holding out on you. He's self-centered and selfish.

A seed of DISSATISFACTION

You aren't enough. You can be more, ascend to more.

Though Adam and Eve were given incredible freedom with only one rule, the serpent has quickly made God seem restrictive and untrustworthy.

Genesis 3:6-10 - Adam and Eve eat the fruit and immediately recognize their nakedness. They hide because the serpent has planted an idea:

God's out to get you.

From here, God launches a rescue mission to save humanity from the thing that is causing them to self-destruct—a little word called "**sin**."

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From here, God launches a rescue mission to save humanity from the thing that is causing them to self-destruct—a little word called "**sin**."

WHAT IS SIN?

Most basically, the word “sin” means “to miss a mark,” or “to fail.”

Romans 3:23 - Sin is falling short of God’s glory, what we were created for.

The Bible describes sin in a variety of ways — as **rebellion** (Isaiah 53:6), as **slavery** (John 8:34), as **blindness** (1 John 2:11), as **adultery** (James 4:4), as **disease and decay** (Isaiah 1:4-6), as **vandalism** (Rom. 8:20-21).

If that wasn’t bad enough, sin also has consequences:

For the wages of sin is death...

BUT

...the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

The Bible is a better story because it’s honest about our condition while also giving us hope in a solution.

Matthew 1:21 - Jesus came to save people **from sin**!

GOD’S OUT TO GET YOU

How does Jesus treat sinners?

Luke 5:12-32 - He heals them, forgives them, eats with them and calls them to follow Him.

You can’t make Jesus dirty; He can only make you clean.

Luke 15:1-7 - Being lost doesn’t mean you have to go and find God. It means God is coming to find you.

Turns out, **God is out to get you**. Not to lecture you or punish you. He’s out to get you—to place you over His shoulders and carry you home.

We’re all sinful. We’ve fallen short of God’s glory. If you think you’re too far from healing, Jesus will bring the healing to you. Here’s the question:

“Do you want to get well?” (John 5:6)

“God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.” (John 3:17)

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Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst.” (John 4:13)

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