

Genesis 3



An 8 week Bible Study Course designed for teenagers

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Genesis 3 INTRODUCTION

Genesis 3 is a series of 8 Bible Studies to be done in a group. Originally designed to fit into a half hour session in a school lunchtime, it can also be used as part of a youth group evening meeting or a Sunday School class.

The sessions are designed to be led by a leader with the members of the group filling in their own answers on the sheets in the spaces provided.

**These sessions may be used freely in such groups; should you wish to make a donation for them please go to www.lumin.org.uk/archive_resources
This material may not be used at events where participants have paid to take part (such as camps or house parties) without obtaining a licence from www.lumin.org.uk**

The Sessions

1 Doubting God's Word - Genesis 3 verse 1

2 Knowing God's Word - Genesis 3 verses 2 and 3

3 Physical Before Spiritual - Genesis 3 verses 4 to 6

4 Knowledge of Good and Evil - Genesis 3 verse 7

5 Hiding from God - Genesis 3 verses 8 to 10

6 Questions and Answers - Genesis 3 verses 11 to 13

7 Consequences - Genesis 3 verses 14 to 19

8 After Care - Genesis 3 verses 20 to 24

All of the sessions use the verses in Genesis 3 as a starting point to look at the issues raised more widely through other scriptures.

Scripture quoted is from the NIV.

Genesis 3

Your Name: _____

In this series we are going to study Genesis Chapter Three together, and look at the issues it brings up with other Bible verses as well.



Genesis 3:1,.... Doubting God's Word.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"

Well, just what had God said to the woman and her husband (Eve and Adam)? Look it up in **Genesis 2:16,17**.

Your Answer Here

The first temptation the Devil tried on humanity, then, was to **doubt God's Word**.

What does 'God's Word' mean to you?

Check these passages, and say what they say about God's Word:

John 1:1 - 3

1 John 1:1

Of course, the Bible is also God's Word. In this century many theologians have said it is just an ordinary book. "Did God really say this?", they ask, not realising that they were falling for the very trap that Eve did.

Sidelight

In his book Evidence for Truth: Science, Dr Victor Pearce says that scientists describe the DNA Code that is vital to life to be like words or a sentence. As God spoke, so we were created, and what He said was recorded on the DNA code like speech on a disk. John 1:3 says through (God's Word) all things were made.

Genesis 3

Genesis 3:1...
Doubting God's Word.

How can we be sure that the Bible is true, and that what God says in it is trustworthy?

Look up the following verses, and write a summary in each box:

2 Timothy 3:16,17

Titus verse 2

Hebrews 6:18

Numbers 23:19

Look back at **Genesis 3:1**.

How would you have answered the serpent?

What would you say to someone today who said that you can't believe the Bible?



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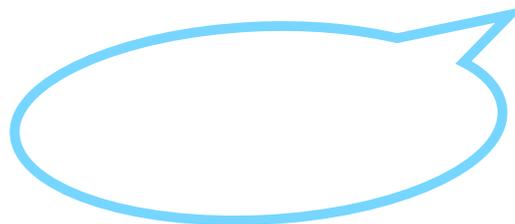
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Genesis 3:2,3...Knowing God's Word.

The woman said to the serpent: "We may eat fruit from the trees of the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

Its as important to know what the Bible says for yourself as it is to know when someone else gets it wrong. In verse 1 we saw that the serpent/devil was misquoting it. Now we see the woman adds a bit on too. What did she add? See **Genesis 2:16,17** again.



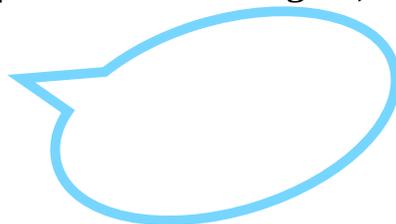
We're going to look at another occasion when the Devil was misquoting the Bible, when he tempted Jesus in the wilderness, and see how Jesus used scripture then. Read **Luke 4:1-13** and also find Deuteronomy chapters 6 and 8 as we will need some of those chapters in a few minutes.

Round One

Jesus was hungry. Understatement of the year that. The average teenager can't fast for 40 minutes, let alone 40 days!

The devil is not stupid. **Genesis 3:1** remember describes him as more 'crafty' (NIV) or 'clever' (Youth Bible) than any other creature God had made. So he always attacks at our weak spots. Temptation no.1 for Jesus then, was, to create food out of stones. He knew Jesus had the power to do that. Jesus knew it would be wrong, because He was still fasting and He wasn't around to use His power for His own good, but other peoples.

Jesus quotes **Deuteronomy 8:3**, which says what?



He didn't need to quote it all, but what does this verse tell us is more important than food?



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Genesis 3:2, 3... Knowing God's Word.

Round Two

Humans are always tempted by power. We like to be in charge, not to have to do what others say. Better still, to be able to tell others where to get off. It's easy to be seduced by power, so the devil tries it on Jesus. Notice that Jesus doesn't deny that Satan was in charge of the earth. He didn't say "they're not yours to give".

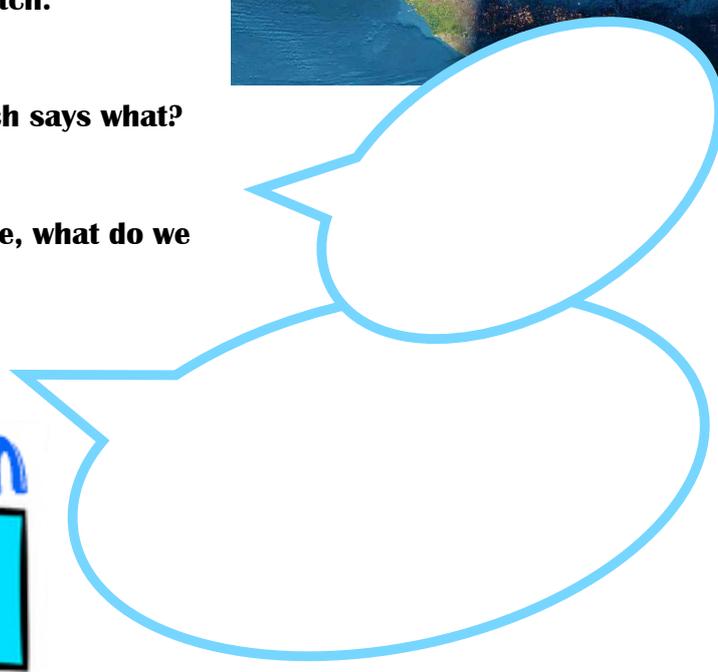
After all, He came to rescue the world from Satan's power and win it back for God. And here was the devil offering to give it to Him anyway. Mission accomplished?.....But there was a catch.



What was the catch?

Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 6:13 which says what?

Read the other verses around this one, what do we learn about worshipping other Gods?



Round Three

"Well, ok," says the Devil. "But you know you're not going to get much support, don't you! You'll have to do something spectacular to make angels appear and rescue you. Then people will believe in you."

What's more, he even quotes some scripture himself. The devil loves to do that (as he did with Eve in Genesis 1:1). He

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Genesis 3:2,3...Knowing God's Word.

quotes **Psalm 91:11,12.**

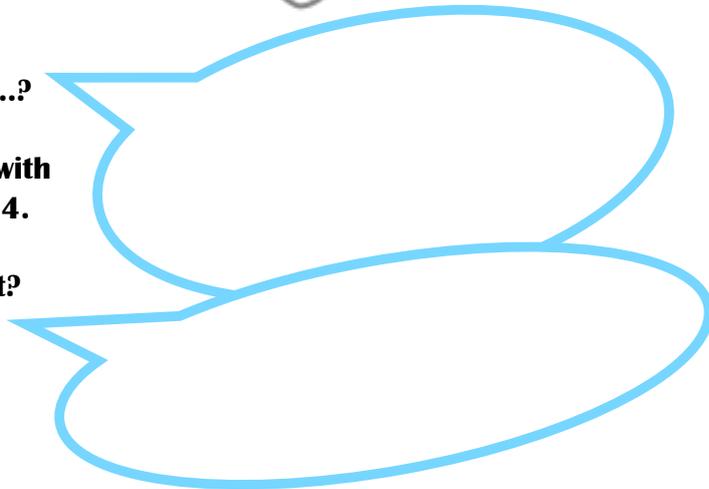
What does that actually say..?

Compare your last answer with what the devil says in Luke 4.

It's almost the same!

But what had he missed out?

(Look back a few verses.)



Jesus goes back to **Deuteronomy 6:16** for His reply, bops the devil on the nose for the final knockout, and wins.



The Lessons for us

If you're really following God and being spiritual, you might have made round one.

You would probably have spotted the catch about worshipping the devil in round two.

But round three will floor you, if you don't know the Bible well! The devil is very clever at misquoting it or taking it completely out of context.

"You mustn't have blood transfusions" say the Jehovah's Witnesses, because the Bible says so.

There isn't a vein of truth in it, they are taking one verse way out of context and paying with their lives.

"It's ok to sin, because if you say sorry God will forgive you, the Bible says so". No, the Bible says we must repent, decide not to sin, follow God and then, if we are aiming to please Him and we sin, He will forgive us. But if we are deliberately going on sinning and not trying to please God, we aren't meeting His conditions!

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Genesis 3:2,3...Knowing God's Word.

Know your Bible!

1. God actually made the Bible fairly easy, its full of stories. We remember stories easier than if it was just a plain text book. So we can know what happened to David, for instance, when he faced Goliath and learn the importance of faith from that story.

That's GCSE Level Bible knowledge for Christians.

2. You can learn some verses off by heart, and then the Holy Spirit can bring them to your mind when you are in need of them. Just as Jesus remembered the verses from Deuteronomy, so you might remember a relevant verse that meets your need or situation at a special time. It happens for Christians all the time, if they know their Bibles!

That's A Level Bible knowledge for Christians.

3. Then you can really dig in deep, knowing how different passages link together and getting a good overall understanding of scripture.

That's Degree Level Bible knowledge for Christians.

And you can go further too, and you can get to any level at any age, if you put in the effort.

Back to the Garden

As we are going to see next time, Eve got it wrong. She added in a bit God hadn't said, added a rule that God didn't put there and made Him seem very unreasonable.

There she was, living in paradise, and making life miserable for herself. The serpent saw this, twisted the knife and destroyed her happiness forever.

If only she had listened to and known what God had really said!

Sidelight

The Bible can

be difficult, but there are quite a few things around that can help us to get to understand it better.

Your Group Leader should be able to suggest one or two.

One good book to read to get you started in the Bible is John's Gospel and there are several helps for this book on the Lumin website, including suggestions of what to read each day and how to think about it, as well as a recorded talk on each section.

You'll find all this at

John.lumin.org.uk
(there's no www!)



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Genesis 3:4-6: Physical before Spiritual.

"You will not surely die" the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be open and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Eve had listened to the devil's deceptive lies long enough. She now decided to take a look for herself. It sounded good, she would become like God! By now she had completely lost her faith.... she believed God was lying and the devil was telling the truth! She wanted knowledge that God had said she shouldn't have!

Knowledge & Wisdom.

Knowledge isn't wrong itself, providing it is based on Wisdom. Look at

Proverbs 8. Write down some of the things it says about wisdom and understanding/knowledge (see especially verses 1, 5, 8-11, 12-14).

So what was wrong about the knowledge the serpent was offering?

If you can't get the answer from Proverbs 8, try Romans 1: 21-23.

Fallen Over

When you fall, you can land upside down. We were designed to be Spirit first, and Body (physical) last. To be guided by our spiritual appetite, not our physical. From the moment of the fall, we have been guided by the physical senses, not the spiritual. What I see, what I touch, what I want; not what God says, what God promises, what God commands.

There are lots of occasions in the Bible where people's sins are recorded. In all cases it starts with them putting their physical desires first. Look up some of these and see

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Genesis 3:4-6: Physical before Spiritual.

where they started to go wrong: was it something they desired, something they were scared might happen to them physically, or what?

David: **2 Samuel 11:2**

Achan: **Joshua 7:20,21**

Peter: **Luke 22: 54-62**

But others in the Bible are recorded as having learnt how to live spirit-first lives, and not put the physical first. How were the following tempted, and how did they react?

Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego: **Daniel 3: 13-18**

Peter: **Acts 8: 18-20**

A Matter of Life and Death

“You will not surely die” said the serpent. But life is based on the Spiritual, not on the Physical.

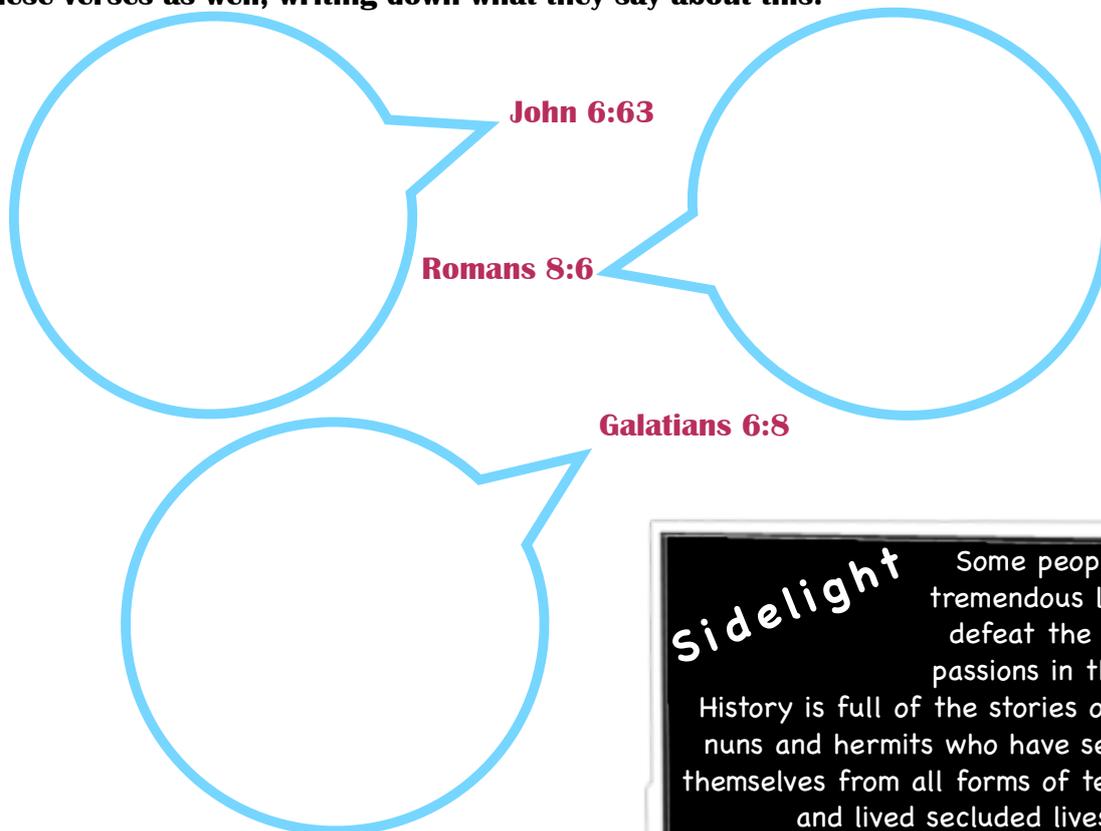
Where does life come from?

Acts 3:15

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Genesis 3:4-6: Physical before Spiritual.

So if you turn your back on Him.....you're turning your back on life too! Look up these verses as well, writing down what they say about this:



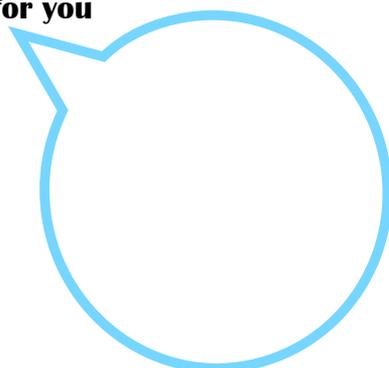
John 6:63

Romans 8:6

Galatians 6:8

Think of some way in which you know you are influenced more by your physical desires or circumstances than by your spiritual relationship with God.

You might not want to write it down incase others see it, but either write a 'code word' or draw something to remind you what you see as a problem for you



Sidelight

Some people go to tremendous lengths to defeat the physical passions in their lives.

History is full of the stories of monks, nuns and hermits who have separated themselves from all forms of temptations and lived secluded lives.

Is it necessary to go to such extremes?

Others have been so ashamed of the sins that they are tempted by that they can never bring themselves to talk about them. They often then end up very miserable or, worse, committing terrible acts because after years of suppressing their sin it all 'breaks out'. This is a terrible tragedy because God wants us to help each other.....see [James 5:16](#).

Do you have a Christian friend you can share deep and secret things with?

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Genesis 3:4-6: Physical before Spiritual.

Aim to make a change in your life about this problem by:

- praying for God's help
- setting targets for change
- talking about it with someone you can trust and asking them to pray for you too.

Remember the first two studies in this series:

if you know God's Word you are better able to defeat temptation.

Look back at the passages we read earlier about Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and Peter. How did they use God's Word to defeat the temptation?

S, M & A

Peter

Also remember the last study about Jesus being tempted in the wilderness. How did He use God's Word to defeat Satan?



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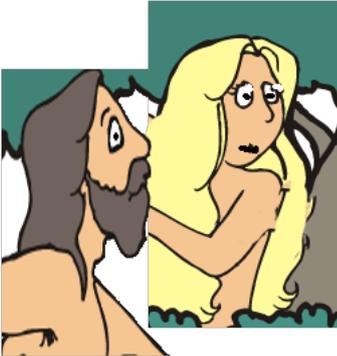
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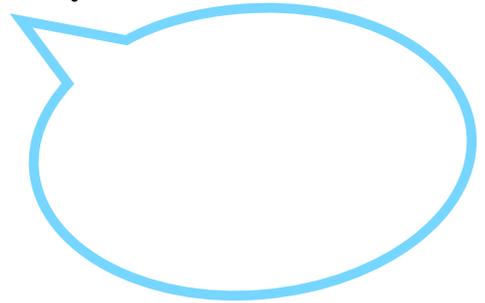
Genesis 3:7... Knowledge of Good and Evil

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realised that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.



Why do you think it says ‘the eyes of both were opened’? Had they been blind before this? In what way?

What was the significance of realising that they were naked?



What did they gain by eating the fruit (we are not told it was an apple, by the way!) and what did they lose?



Innocence Lost

They were different now, and could never be the same again. You can't go back, when you've lost your innocence.

The first time you steal, you are a thief. The first time you lie, you are a liar. The first time you disobey God, you are a sinner. The first time you have sex, you lose your virginity. There's no turning back.

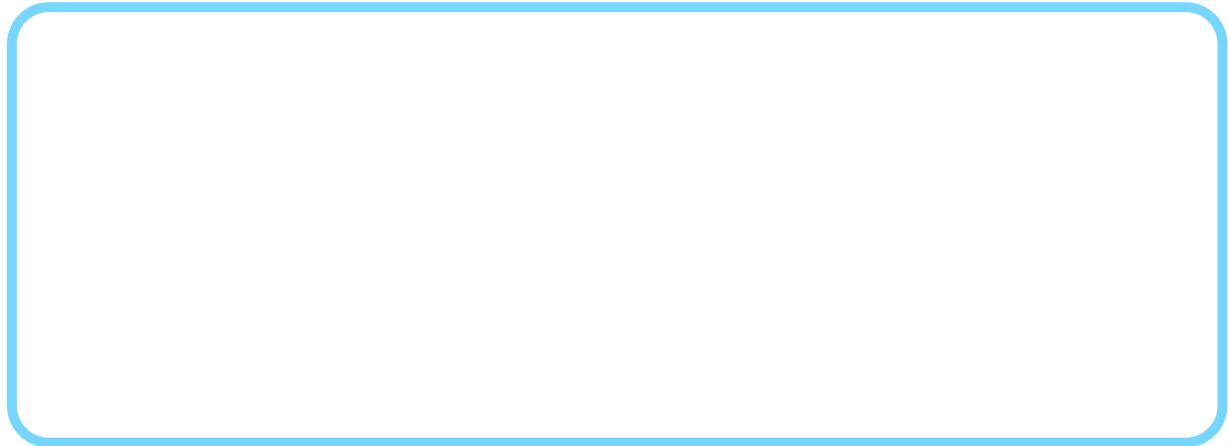
The effects

At the top of the next page try to write down as many of the consequences that you can think of that result from this one action by Adam and Eve.

Think about the effects on them, on their children, on all humanity since, but also the effects on God.

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Genesis 3:7... Knowledge of Good and Evil



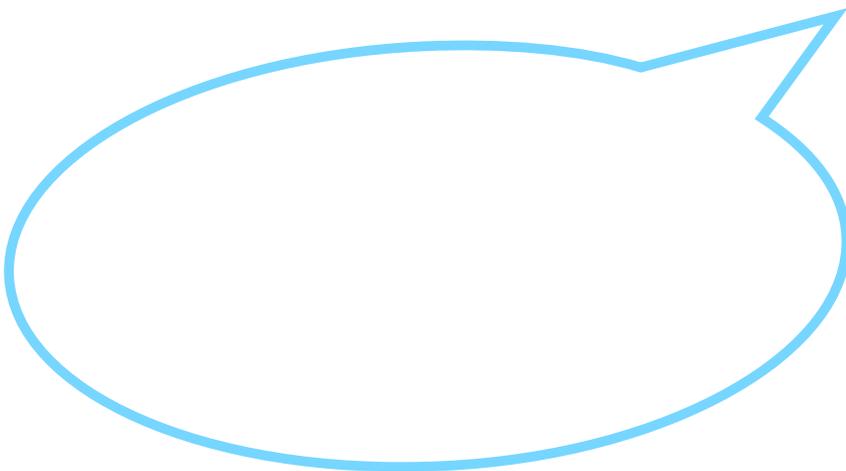
God's Tears and His Anger

The book of Hosea is full of God's feelings for His rebel children. I'm sure He felt like this when Adam and Eve sinned, and still does when we sin. Read the whole book sometime, but for now just look up some of the following verses:

ch 1:2, 4:1 - 9, 6:7, 10:12, 11:1 - 4, 13:4,14, 14:1,2,9

Or take a look at **Genesis 6:6**.

How does God feel about sin?



Sidelight

We are often very casual about our own sin.

But that has lots of consequences too! The people we hurt, the loss of our own reputation. Not to mention what it does to God.

It's easy to say "God will forgive me if I'm sorry" but that forgets what it cost Him to be able to forgive you.

It also forgets the fact that, though you are forgiven, the consequences carry on. If you hurt someone, they are still hurt.

Covering Up

Adam and Eve immediately started to cover themselves, an attempt to hide their sin.

That got them in even deeper, because they made it obvious things had changed.

Much better to be honest!

God cannot take sin lightly, it cost Him Cross.



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Genesis 3:2-10.....Hiding from God.

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?". He answered, "I heard you in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

Your "Adam's Apple"

You've probably heard the story about how we get our Adam's Apples, those lumps that stick out of the neck of adult men: it's a left over from the apple that Adam ate, the bit that got stuck in his throat. Of course, that is **not true**, it's just a legend.

But there **is** something that we gained from that original sin, something which we all have and which neither we nor Adam and Eve had before it. It's the knowledge of good and evil which we looked at last time and it appears in all of us. As we go on with this study, see if you can recognise what it is (I'm calling it our 'adam's apple' for now!).

I've got it, and I'm sure you've got one too!

The great cover-up continues.....

It wasn't enough that they sewed fig leaves as coverings for themselves. When God came near they hid from Him, they'd never done that before, but they didn't have their "adam's apples" then! Let's see how some other people have reacted to this thing, write down how they reacted in each case.

Peter: See **Mark 14: 66 - 72**

David: See **2 Samuel 12: 7 - 10** and **Psalms 51: 1 - 6**

The men of Sodom: See **Genesis 19: 5 - 9**

Which of the above examples is the odd one out?
What do you think the "Adam's Apple" is?

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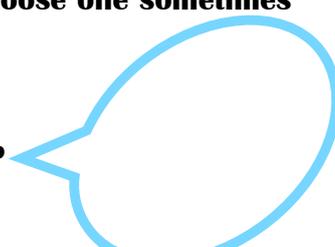
Genesis 3:8-10.....
Hiding from God.

The Knowledge of good as well as of evil.

What the fruit gave Adam and Eve was the ability to distinguish between good and evil, and from then on the need to choose to do good instead of evil. Throughout history some people have chosen good, some evil. Many more choose one sometimes and the other at other times.

According to the Bible, good is obedience to God.

People like **Joshua** chose good. What did he say in **Joshua 24:15**?



According to the Bible, sin is aiming to do good but failing.

People like **Peter** are like this. Compare the reading about him on the last page with **John 13 :37**.



According to the Bible, evil is deliberate defiance of God.

People like **those killed in the flood** were evil. See what God says about them in **Genesis 6: 5**.



People who are evil have often killed off their Adam's Apples (I'm sure by now you realise we are talking about their consciences) and they no longer make good choices. They are given over to evil ways, and even God gives up on them. It's a horrible thought, but it seems to be possible to choose to be so bad that even God no longer tries to rescue you.

See **Romans 1: 24,26,28** and **Romans 2:2**, what do these verses say?



Guilt and Conviction.

Sometimes you may think that your conscience is a pain, but it is a good guide that lets you know if you are following God's ways or not.

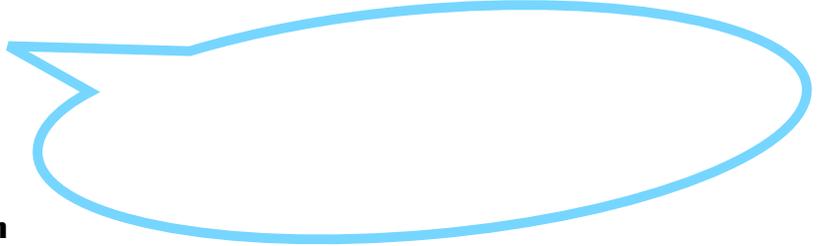
Immediately we sin, our conscience points the finger at us and convicts us "Oi! Watch it!". That is good and useful.

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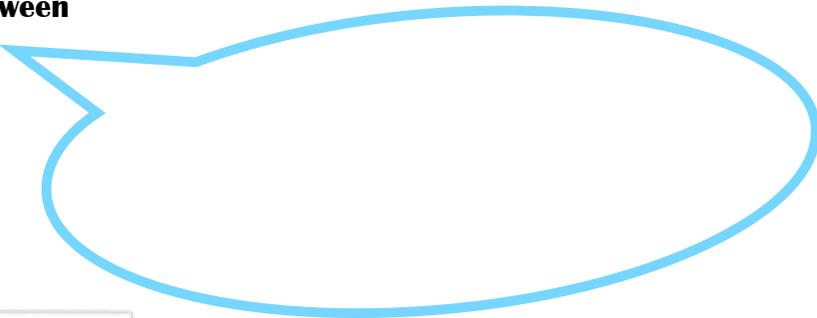
Genesis 3:8-10.....
Hiding from God.

But if we let it, our conscience will also push us into feeling guilty. We don't have to, if we have confessed to God and repented.

What does **Romans 8:1** say?



How do you think that you can tell the difference between conviction and guilt?



Learning Bible verses is important, and does not have to be hard; it can even be fun.

Sidelight

One way is to try to make it into a song. Lots have been done by others, and it makes it so much easier to learn.

Visit www.walkingbible.org to find a large number of bible verse songs to play, there's an app to help you too.

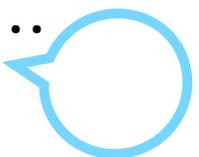
At the time of producing this sheet, Romans 8:1 was not recorded so why not try to make your own song up using the words of this great verse?

Learn Romans 8:1!

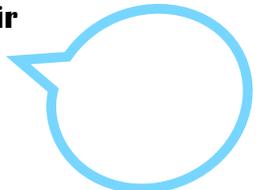
It'll help you at times when you don't forgive yourself. We always need to move on from mistakes, sin and error and stand back up to walk with God again.

Back to the Garden.....

What were they feeling, conviction or guilt?



What **should** they have done to get their new consciences back to "feeling ok"?



We'll see next time if they did this!



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Genesis 3

Your Name: _____

Genesis 3:11-13....Questions and Answers.

And (God) said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me - she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate".

If you can't hide...blame someone!

Isn't that just what we always do? When we are finally found out, we point the finger at someone else!

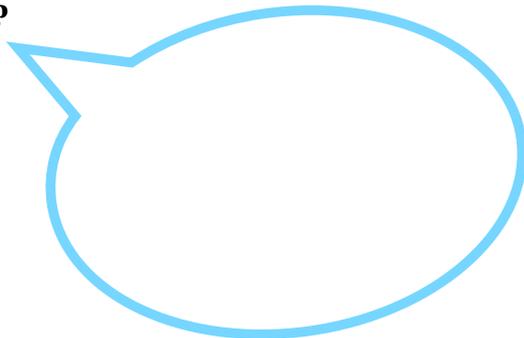
It wasn't me, I wasn't talking in class, she was talking to me!

I wasn't speeding, I was just keeping up with the car in front!



That's exactly what Adam and Eve did. Adam blamed Eve (and God too!) and Eve blamed the serpent.

Think back over the last week. Have there been times you have blamed someone else in order to avoid trouble for yourself? What does it feel like when someone blames you in this way?

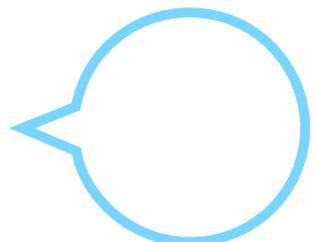
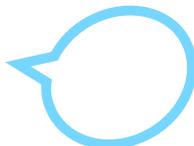


But wasn't Adam right to point the finger? After all, Eve did give it to him.....

To answer that question, write answers to these questions:

1/ What had God said they must not do? (See **Genesis 2:15-17**)

2/ Who did God say this to?



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Genesis 3:11-13.....Questions and Answers.

3/ Do you have any doubt that Adam knew it was wrong?

4/ Who was responsible for Adam's action?

5/ Did he have any right to blame Eve?

You could answer the same set of questions for Eve too. In fact, if anything, she was less guilty, because she was told 'the rules' by Adam, not by God directly.

Think.....

Do we have any excuse when we sin?

Has God made the 'rules' clear to us or not?

Have you ever tempted someone else to do wrong, to sin?

Answering the wrong questions.....

Have you ever listened to a tv or radio interview where the person being asked questions never seems to answer them? They always have some long prepared statement that goes round in circles and avoids the question they were actually asked.

Adam and Eve are a bit like that here.

What does God ask them?

They don't answer that question do they, at least not immediately. They get round to it eventually, but start off with something they weren't asked....."why?"

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Genesis 3:11-13.....Questions and Answers.

Why? Why? Why?

We're always asking that aren't we. We always want to know. Why does God allow suffering? Why did my relative die then? Why did that happen to me? And God never seems to answer!

In fact, I'm fairly sure He never does. "Why?" isn't on His agenda. He doesn't answer it, but **He doesn't ask it either.**

When do you forgive someone, if you ever do?

A friend or someone who you spend time with often does something that really annoys you or hurts you.

Will you ever forgive them?

Do you wait till they say sorry before you even think about forgiving them?

Do you forgive them as soon as you calm down a bit, even if they don't say sorry?

God does the last one (not that He needs to calm down!). In fact, even before you sin He has already forgiven you, because He forgave you at Calvary on the Cross 2,000 years ago.

He wants us to forgive others in the same way, before they say sorry. "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us".

Don't wait for the apology, God doesn't wait for yours! That's not to say it's not needed, you can't mend the relationship until both people want to. You need to forgive, they need to admit they've done wrong (just as we need to confess to God). But get your forgiveness sorted on the same day as the problem, then you can move on.

Sidelight

He didn't ask Adam and Eve why they sinned; He asked them what they'd done. He didn't want an explanation that tried to cover up their guilt, He wanted an honest answer about what they'd done wrong, so that He could help them to repent.

He doesn't ask you and me why we sin, He asks us what we've done. He doesn't want an explanation that tries to cover up our guilt, He wants an honest answer about what we've done wrong, so that He can help us to repent.

What we can bring to God.....

The only thing you and I have to bring as an offering to God, that He didn't give us in the first place, is our sin.

He doesn't want us to hide it from Him. He doesn't want us to make excuses for it. He wants us to bring it out into the open and to tell Him what we have done wrong, so that he can help us to put it right.

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Genesis 3:11-13....Questions and Answers.

Make a list below of some of the things that you need to put right with God today. No excuses, no reasons, just the honest truth.

God I am a sinner. I am guilty, this is what I have done:

Please forgive me, signed _____ Date _____



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Your Name: _____

Genesis 3:14 - 19.....Consequences.

So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

To the woman He said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

To Adam He said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you 'You must not eat of it', cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return"

Here are the latest results.....

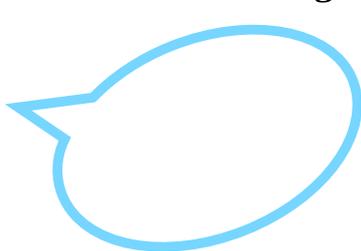
Everything we do causes something to happen. It may or may not be what we planned, but something happens. If Andy Murray hits a tennis ball with his racket it probably soars over the net, lands where he aimed it and he may well win the match. If I hit a tennis ball with my racket, it flies off somewhere but it is very lucky if it goes anywhere near where I planned it to go. If it flies over the fence and through next door's greenhouse window, breaking the glass, that is a direct consequence of my action.

"I didn't mean it" I say, but I did it, "I'm sorry".

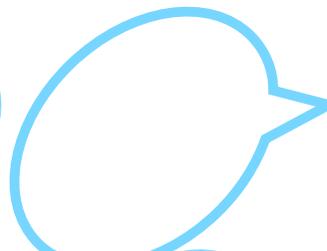
Ok, so I have to repair it.

Last time we said sorry to God for things we have done wrong. Because we said sorry, we can be sure of several things.....what? See these verses:

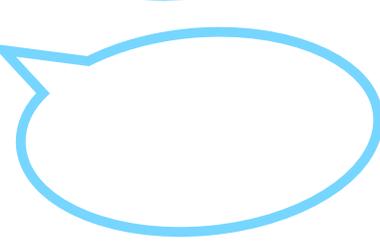
Psalm 103:12



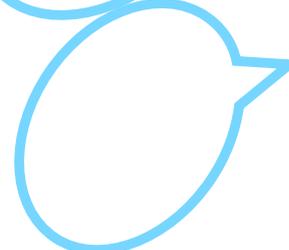
1 John 1:9



Psalm 51:1,2



Psalm 51:9



Genesis 3

Genesis 3:14 - 19
Consequences.

So, if God is ready to forgive, is that the end of it? No, because though we are forgiven, the results still carry on.

**Horatio was playing with his golf club. He hit the ball hard just as Mr Kilpatrick came up the path. It hit him right in the chest, and broke a rib.
Horatio said sorry next day when he visited Mr Kilpatrick in hospital. Mr Kilpatrick smiled and forgave him. But he still had a broken rib.....**

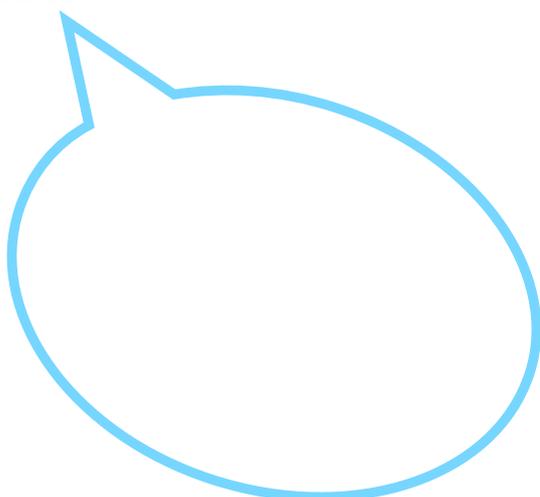
Think What are the results of things you have done recently. Is there anything you can do to put things right?



More Results.....

Look again at the passage (verses 14 to 19). Make a list of all the things God said would happen because of the sin of these two people.

What would happen to Adam and Eve themselves?



Sidelight

Because of their sin there were curses that would come on the earth and on all human beings that have been born since Adam and Eve.

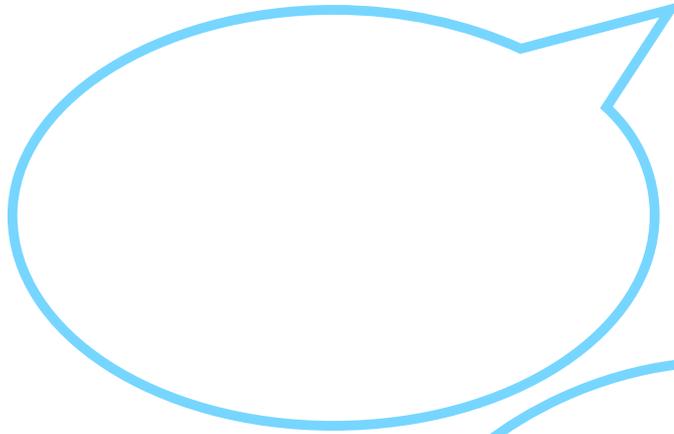
The Good News that comes later in the Bible is that all of these have been cancelled out. For instance, Colossians chapter 2 verses 13 and 14 say (God) forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.

In order to understand the reasons Jesus came to die for us we need to understand passages like Genesis chapter 3, but we should never fall into the trap of reading about curses in the Old Testament and then going around shouting "We are doomed! Doomed!" - there is Good News and that is what we need to go around shouting!

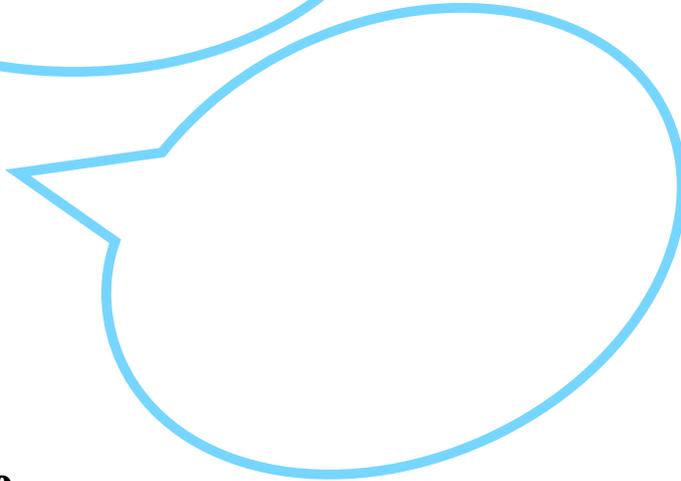
Genesis 3

Genesis 3:14 - 19
Consequences.

What would happen to all people since the time of Adam and Eve?



What would happen to nature



A sign of Hope.....

There is one, just one, here.

Look at **verse 15 - the last line of the first paragraph of the Bible passage for this session.**

There is the first glimmer of a prophecy about what God would do in the future.

What does it say?



It's a prophecy, one that eventually (thousands of years after Genesis chapter 3) Jesus fulfilled.



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Genesis 3

Your Name:

Genesis 3:20-24.....After Care.

Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live for ever."

So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

I've got Trouble with the parents.....

You know how it goes. Suddenly, almost without warning, you find you've done something you shouldn't (or they've found out about something you hoped they wouldn't) and you're in trouble again. Grounded, maybe. No pocket money, maybe. Whatever.

But something else too.....they go on looking after you. They may be annoyed with you, but they still feed you!

God is just like that here to Adam and Eve. Let's look at this passage bit by bit:

Mother of all the Living..... In more ways than one! Genesis teaches that all people descend from her by birth, but we also follow her by sin too. She was deceived and rebelled, so do we. Actually, so was Adam, and Paul said it is from Adam that we inherit sin. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15: 21,22)

Clothed by God.....(verse 21) Why do you think God made them clothes? They hadn't needed them before!



Perhaps the answer can be found in what happens next.

Genesis 3

Genesis 3:20-24...
After Care.

Banished

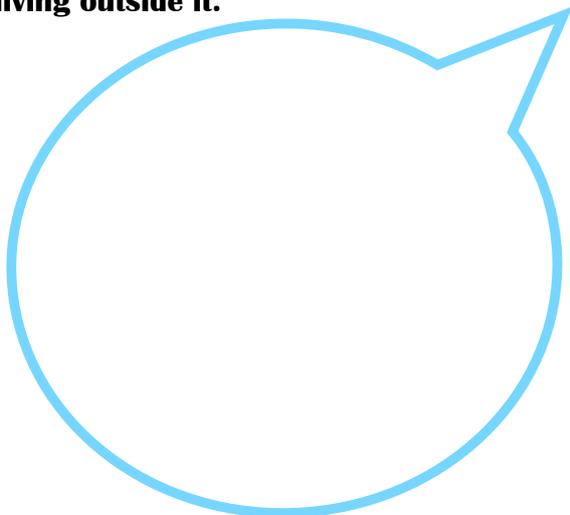
How do you imagine the Garden of Eden? Describe it in your own words.....you could use **Genesis 2: 8 - 17** to help.



Adam and Eve were now cast out of this protected environment.....perhaps that's one reason they needed clothes!

Why were they cast out?

Yes, they had sinned, but why particularly couldn't they stay in God's Garden do you think? After all, He let them carrying on living outside it.



Sidelight

The bit about the clothes is actually quite amazing. It says God made them out of animal skins. The only way to get an animal skin is to kill an animal. Up to this point, God had looked at the world and it was 'very good' (see Genesis chapter 1). The Bible says that up to this point there was no death in the world at all; in fact it says it was Adam that brought death into the world by committing this sin (see, for example, Romans 5:12-14).

What we see then is that God sacrificed an animal or two to provide clothes for Adam and Eve, and we learn later in the Bible that animal sacrifices are a picture of the sacrifice that Jesus would make for all humanity.

God had said "if you eat this fruit you will die" but He then provided a substitute to die in their place, pointing to Jesus who one day would die for them and for us because of our sin as well as theirs.

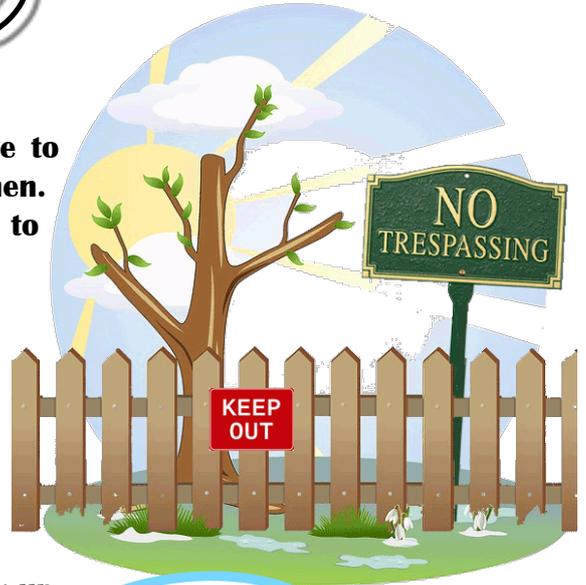
Genesis 3

Genesis 3:20-24...
After Care.

The Tree of Life

This was something God always planned to give to us. It broke His heart that we could not have it then. The rest of the Bible is the story of God's Plan to give it back to us.

Genesis 3 ends with the way back to Eden, paradise, the Tree of Life blocked off and even guarded by heavenly beings called cherubim. There was no way back in!



But the Bible ends with it wide open again. Look up **Revelation 22**, what do you see in **verse 2**?

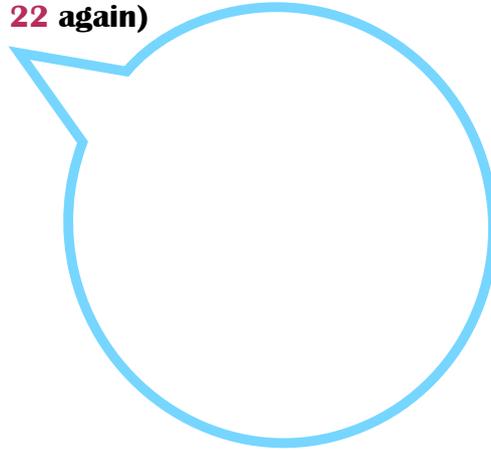
What is God's Plan to make it possible for us to get back to the Tree of Life? How would you say it in your own words?

Well done - what you have written in there is the "Gospel Message"

Genesis 3

Genesis 3:20-24...
After Care.

What other 'goodies' are promised to us in the Garden now that Jesus has opened it up again? (see **Revelation 22** again)



Genesis 3 sets the scene for the whole Bible. It tells us:

why there is sin in the world.....because we do not believe and trust God's Word

what the consequences of sin are.....separation from God and the good things He has for us

what God's character is like.....even though we hide from Him He looks for us and goes on loving us even when we hurt Him. He even carries on providing for us

what happens when we sin.....even though we can be forgiven, there are long term after effects

If you missed any of the studies ask for a copy of it to do at home.



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