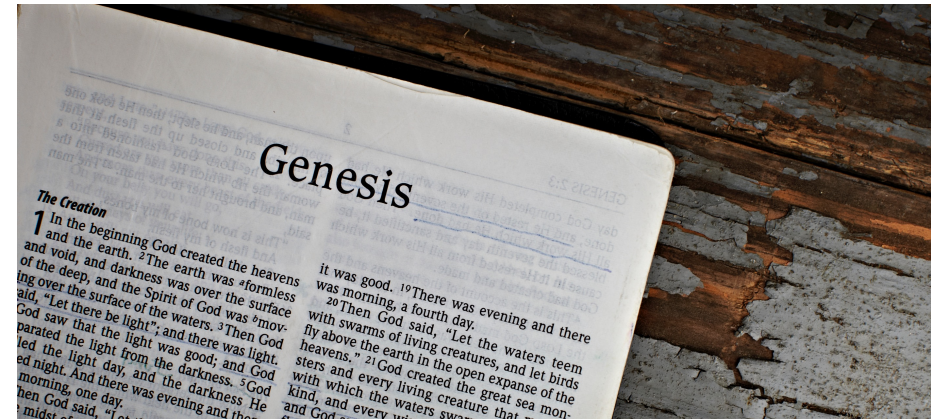




3. "Where are you?" is a great question. You might paraphrase it, "We once walked together in the cool of the day, but where are you now?" How would you answer the same question, "Where are you?" Are you walking with God or are you running for cover? What are some steps you need to take to get back to where you once were?
4. How do Adam and Eve respond when God confronts them with their sin? Who or what are some of the things we tend to blame for our sin? What does God promise will happen when we stop looking for someone or something to blame and take responsibility for our sin?

THE GOD WHOSE JUDGMENT IS TEMPERED WITH MERCY (vv. 14-24)

1. Read through these verses and make a list of the ways God enacts his judgment against all the parties involved? How do these judgments continue to plague us today?
2. Read through these verses a second time and notice the places where God extends mercy to Adam and Eve even as he executes his judgment. How do these acts of mercy continue to give us hope today?
3. Most of the time we tend to think God is obligated to forgive us and we do not deserve his judgment, when the opposite is true. God is obligated to judge us and we do not deserve his mercy. Why is it important for God to judge our sin? How should we respond to God's mercy?



Paul soberly reminds us, "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned (Romans 5:12)."

At first blush it almost appears as if God failed to keep his promise. Adam and Eve did not die the moment they tasted the forbidden fruit. It is obvious, however, that they felt the pangs of death as they covered themselves and hid from God. Things would never be the same for the sons and daughters of Adam. While Adam and Eve immediately experience spiritual death, the clock was set in motion the moment they walked out of the garden, they would soon experience physical death as well.

It is exactly at this point in the drama, however, that we get our first glimpse of God's mercy. He is true to his word in executing his judgement, but his judgment is tempered by the promise of ultimate victory over sin and death.

THE GOD WHO PURSUES THOSE WHO RUN FROM HIM (vv. 8-13)

1. While Adam and Eve covered themselves from each other, they actually run and hide from God. How does this pattern repeat itself in our relationships with God and with one another? How do we cover ourselves with each other? What are some ways we try to hide from God?
2. God obviously already knew exactly what Adam and Eve had done and how they would respond. Why do you think he chooses to approach them the way he does?