



## Discussion Guide

### Section #4: THE FALL: TURNING FROM GOD

**Read to the Group:** We see that Satan, also called Lucifer and the Devil, chose to turn away from God and go his own way. God also gives people the freedom to believe or not to believe. We have free will.

#### Group Questions:

1. Why do you think it might be important to God to give us the freedom to choose?
2. Can you imagine any reasons why God created people if He knew ahead of time that some people would not use their free will to trust Him?

**Read to the Group:** We were created to honor and glorify God through trusting and obeying Him. God created man in His likeness or image. God is spirit, so it is not our body that is like God. It is our spirit that is like God. We were made to know, love and obey God. In spite of all the hurt we have caused God, He still loves us. Even knowing ahead of time that many He created would use their free will to reject His leadership and love, He still chose create us.

Human parents do the same. They desire to have a child, even though they know the risk that the child might not obey them. They want a child to love and train, and in turn hope that the child will be grateful to them, be obedient and responsible, and love them in return.

#### Group Questions:

1. Do you see the evidence of sin and evil in the world today?
2. Where and how?
3. How does Satan complicate our use of free will?
4. Sometimes when we break laws or rules, is it because someone tempted us?
5. Have any of us ever broken rules just because we wanted to? *(As a leader you may want to share that you have broken many of God's laws. Be specific but not detailed.)*



#### Show the Following Segment from the *God's Story* video:

Watch from "Long before God created humans" (Stream of light)... through... "I made you from dust and you will return to dust." (Hands on fig leaves)  
5 minutes, 12 seconds



**Leader Information:** (This next information is long, but vital for the class to know. It is hard to read this much material out loud and still keep the group's attention. Study it many times until you know it very well. Try making notes to remind you of the content. If you have trouble remembering parts, read however much is necessary.)

God created many heavenly beings and gave them life. They are known by many different names in the Bible such as angels, messengers and servants. They were created to serve God. They do not have bodies like humans do, but at times these beings have appeared on earth in the form of men. They are powerful, but not as strong or powerful as God. They have great wisdom, but cannot be everywhere at once.

We need to believe that God is greater than everything He created. These heavenly beings were created perfect, but they were given a free will to choose whether to follow God or not.



Of all the beings God created, Lucifer, was the most beautiful and had great responsibility. He should have loved and obeyed God, but instead he developed pride in his beauty, intelligence and position. Lucifer wanted to take over God's position and influenced many other heavenly beings to follow him. Lucifer, also known as Satan, was the first one of God's created beings to commit evil.

But God knows everything, so He knew what Lucifer and the other rebellious angels were planning before it even happened. He knew Lucifer's thoughts, his heart, and his future actions. God is holy and righteous, so nothing sinful could stay in His presence. So then, because of Lucifer's pride and rebellion against God, Lucifer lost his place of honor and service in Heaven.

For Lucifer's sin of rebellion, God sentenced Him to eternal death. God prepared the Lake of Fire (Hell) to be an everlasting place of punishment for Lucifer and the other fallen angels. In a time yet future, they will be sent to that place. God is using Satan to demonstrate the wisdom and justice of the sentence by not immediately sending Satan to Hell and allowing him to try to be god.. God also uses Satan for another purpose. The very existence of Satan gives us an opportunity to use our free will. We can either follow Satan or choose to trust God.

Satan, through his lies and false teaching, attempts to be god, but of course those who follow him find out he is an imposter and that he can only destroy people's lives. We see Satan's hand at work in many ways. Satan tries to deceive people so that they might worship him robbing God of the worship that He deserves. Satan tries to influence people to do evil.

But, remember that we each have a free will. We have a choice. We can believe in God, and He will give us the strength to overcome Satan. Satan cannot make us do what he wants. We do not need to be afraid because God can give us victory. God is stronger than Satan, and God's plans will win.

(If anyone still asks why an all-powerful God does not get rid of Satan now, or even why God ever allowed Satan to exist in the first place, go back to the discussion of free will and God's offer of love to everyone. Point out that we need to appreciate how God is waiting for the

right time to carry out His sentence against Satan for his rebellion. This same patience is shown toward us since we also sin against God. A long time ago, Satan had the chance to honor God, but he chose not to trust God. So now, God gives us an opportunity to humble ourselves by admitting our sins, and to trust God and be forgiven.)

**Read to the Group:** God wanted to give Adam the very best. He wanted Adam to be dependent on Him and to guide him in every decision. God told Adam that if he ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, he would die. But we don't see him die immediately, which shows us that God did not mean physical death.

**Read this Scripture to the Group:**

“For the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23a).

**Group Questions:**

1. How did the relationship between God and Adam and Eve change after they ate the fruit?
2. Can this help us discover the true meaning of death in this situation?

**Read to the Group:** Death in this situation was separation from God; a broken relationship, a spiritual death. When Adam and Eve discovered the meaning of evil, their relationship with God immediately changed. They saw that they were naked and tried to cover their bodies. They felt shame and tried to hide from God. Then they made excuses to God about breaking His rule. Their natural pure relationship with God was broken. Adam and Eve began to try to provide for themselves and live independently from God. So death was spiritual, losing their relationship with God. (Unless you are covering only one section per week, it is best to present sections 4 & 5 together. We recommend keeping the meeting going at this point or you will leave them with no hope.)

**Transition Statement:** It may look now as if there is no hope for Adam and Eve and no hope for us either. As we will see in the next selection (*or* next time when we meet), the all-powerful Creator-God has a plan to rescue humanity.