

## Session 4

# Fall and Brokenness

**Key Point:** Acknowledging our brokenness. Our sin damages ourselves, others, and the world God made.

**Key Encouragement:** God works through your weakness, brokenness, and even your sin.

**Session Goals:**

Pray for each other's family and friends.

Discuss the implications of living in a world marred by sin and death. Recognise that people are both sinners and sinned against. Which of these we speak about first might depend on a person's history and circumstances.

## Introduction

Everyone experiences the world's brokenness. Whatever language people use to explain it, all our lives are marred by sin and death.

What key points were made in the video? Did anything stand out for you?

In Session 3 Review we answered the questions: Who am I? and What is my purpose? Encourage each other by sharing what you wrote.



## Train

### God's Story: Fall

We are continuing to reflect on the main stages of God's story: Creation, Fall, Redemption and Re-creation. Last session we looked at Creation and what it tells us about who we are. We looked at it from two perspectives:

1. God's story and what the Bible says about us and our world, and
2. My story, and how we know, experience, and live out these truths in our own life.

We connected Creation with everyday questions about identity, meaning and purpose. You'll find a summary table at the end of this session.

In today's session we focus on the second stage of God's story – the Fall. This is the Bible's answer to the question 'What is wrong with the world?' and 'Why is the world so broken?'

**Read Genesis 3:1-24** to discover how each of the relationships we identified last session was damaged by human sinfulness.

1. **Why did Adam and Eve eat the fruit? (i.e. What was their sin?) 3:1-6**
  
2. **How did sin immediately affect their relationship with God and each other? Why? 3:7-13**
  
3. **Having rejected the God who gave them life, they now live under His judgement. (3:14-19) How does God's judgement affect their relationships with:**
  - a. **God?**
  
  - b. **each other?**
  
  - c. **the world?**
  
4. **How does God show them grace? 3:15, 20-24**

**Read Matthew 27:45-46.**

5. **When we experience the consequences of sin and brokenness, how can knowing Jesus help?**

**Read 1 John 1:5-2:2.**

**6. When you recognise your own sinfulness what is the right response?**

People trusted themselves instead of God. Being 'in the image of God' was not enough, they wanted to *be* God, and so they rebelled against Him. God judged Adam and Eve and we now live in a world that is profoundly broken, marred by sin and death. Rejecting the good and just God who gives life *can* only lead to death. Putting ourselves first must lead to broken relationships with each other and our world. We are out of sync with God, each other, the world, and even ourselves. The impact of human sinfulness ripples out across all people, in all generations.

**My Story: Brokenness – What is wrong with me and the world?**

We all live in a world affected by the events of Genesis 3. We experience the impact of sin and brokenness. We've used the word 'broken' because it is more likely to come up in conversation than 'sin'. Broken also implies that the world is 'not what it was meant to be' and that it needs fixing. God's story tells us that the brokenness people experience flows from human sin and God's judgement.

Choose one of the following questions to reflect on. They are different angles on the topic of Fall and Brokenness. Aim to illustrate your answer with a specific example or story from your life. Spend a couple of minutes making some notes about what to share with the group.

- 1. When has my sinfulness damaged relationships and contributed to the world's brokenness? How did knowing God's story help me?**
  
- 2. How does recognising my own brokenness affect the way I treat other broken people?**
  
- 3. How does knowing that the world is 'not what it is meant to be' help me respond to frustration, pain or disappointment?**

#### 4. What do I find challenging or comforting about knowing that God judges sin?

## Share

Share about the final person of the five people you are praying for regularly. Tell the group a little about your relationship with them. As you share, please remember to respect their privacy.

- How do you think they would answer the questions 'What is wrong with me?', 'Why is the world so broken?' and 'Why can't we fix things'?
- Take time to consider how their lives would be better if they knew Jesus.

## Pray

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8 (NIV)

Use this passage to guide your prayers for each other and for the family and friends you shared about earlier.

- Praise God for forgiving and cleansing us through Jesus.
- Confess your sin and ask God for forgiveness.
- Ask for opportunities to share your story about the God who mends our brokenness by judging and forgiving sin.
- Pray for each of the conversations and friends that people shared about earlier.

## Review

1. A few weeks ago, we watched the Gospel summary 'Key to Christianity'. This week we'll look at another Gospel summary, 'Two ways to Live': [twowaystolive.com/](http://twowaystolive.com/)
  - a. How does it tell the story of:
    - Creation and Identity. Who am I?
    - Fall and Brokenness. What is wrong with the world?
    - Redemption and Security. How can I be safe in a broken world?
    - Re-creation and Hope. What hope is there for the future?

We haven't looked at the last two stages of God's story yet but you are welcome to give them a go!

- b. What do you like about this Gospel summary?
  - c. Is there anything you don't understand or have questions about?
  - d. Were there any parts of the Gospel summary that particularly resonated with your experience of God? Why?
2. For each of the five people you are praying for regularly, consider how each person would answer the questions 'What is wrong with me?', 'Why is the world so broken?' and 'Why can't we fix things?'

# Summary Table

## Key Concepts and Questions for each Gospel theme.

	<b>God's story:</b> How does the Bible answer these questions?	<b>My story:</b> How do I answer these questions? How do my friends answer these questions?
<b>Creation and Identity</b>	<p>What does it mean to be created in God's image?</p> <p>What does God think about us and the world He created?</p>	<p>Who am I? Who are we?</p> <p>What is my purpose?</p> <p>Why do I matter? Why do you matter?</p> <p>How does being created by God bring me joy or rest?</p>
<b>Fall and Brokenness</b>	<p>What is sin and what are its consequences?</p> <p>What went wrong with the world God created?</p>	<p>What is wrong with me (us)?</p> <p>Why is the world so broken?</p> <p>Why can't we fix things?</p> <p>Is God's justice something to look forward to or fear?</p>