

SESSION 7: FAULT

TOPIC: Our Goodness and the Fall

GOAL

The goal of this session is to help the teens understand God's original plan for creation and how the Fall of Man distorted God's plan for humanity. It also addresses how God's master plan comes to fruition despite our faults and failures.

KEY CONCEPTS

God created us for complete and total unity with Him. This is our original purpose.

When man and woman chose knowledge over God's will, sin entered the world and took root. Sin has continued to poison, distort, and tempt human hearts over the centuries.

We were created by God and, as a result, the desire for God is written on our hearts. God continually seeks to draw us closer to Him.

KEY TERMS

Original Sin: The sin by which the first human beings disobeyed the commandment of God, choosing to follow their own will rather than God's will. Describes the fallen state of human nature which affects every person born into the world, and from which Christ, the "New Adam," came to redeem us.

Redemption: Christ paid the price of His own sacrificial death on the cross to ransom us, to set us free from the slavery of sin, thus achieving our redemption.

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:27

Romans 5:12

CATECHISM

27

356

375

ENVIRONMENT

Place a table and eight chairs at the front of the main meeting space. Place four buzzers on the table. This setup will be used for the Gather activity.

AS YOU GET STARTED

For an extended Send, consider offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation in addition to having the teens reflect using the *Examination of Conscience* handout.

PROCLAIM

"Fault" Teaching

We All Sin

Romans 5:12 says, "death spread to all men because all men sinned."

Every. Single. Person. No one is free from sin; no one is better than another. We all stumble and fall, but we all must get back up and continue to seek righteousness, over and over and over again. The one constant in life seems to be our human ability to mess things up and make bad decisions. But in reality, the constant is our need for God's grace and mercy because we are all fallen and caught in a cycle of sin.

How Did We Get Here?

Over the past few sessions, we have worked through various parts of the Book of Genesis, so we should be familiar with one of the most significant lines: "God created man in His own image... male and female He created them." Humanity is the only creation formed in God's image. Humans are set apart from all of God's other creations. Humans were set apart from all of God's other creations. God created humanity in a state of original holiness in order that man could be in a relationship with God and share in His divine life.

CCC 356, 375; Genesis 1:27

Humanity was created to be in union with God. We all have innate yearnings and desires that are rooted in how and why we were created. The Catechism eloquently states: "The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to Himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for."

CCC 27

The first sin was disobedience to God. When faced with a choice, humanity chose themselves over God. Sin is a rejection of God and God's plan for our lives. When sin entered the world and humanity rejected God, our divine union was shattered. Suffering and pain entered the world and sin took root. We cut ourselves off from God's grace and the original holiness with which we were created was shattered. The repercussions reverberate throughout history.

CCC 386

Where Are We Now?

Humans now spend their lives combating temptation and resisting the urge to selfishly choose other things over God. Just as our ancestors hid from God in shame, we, too, try to hide from God, keeping our darkest secrets locked away.

Sometimes, it seems as though there are no consequences for our sins: white lies to your parents, cheating on a test, or other small things that are easy to get away with. However, each

time we fall short of God's plan for our lives, it becomes a little harder to get back on track. It is similar to working out. If you are vigilant and have a good routine of staying in shape, all of your workouts are easier and you can attain better results. However, if you skip a week, it is much harder to attain the same results. You will have to endure more sweat, more work, and more suffering.

Even beyond the earthly consequences, our actions also have an eternal impact. Everything we do, big or small, leaves a mark on our eternal soul. The weight of sin is enormous and should never be cast aside.

Our Hope

Luckily, that is not where the story ends. Where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more. Within the darkness and despair of original sin, the beauty and grace of redemption is born. Jesus, the New Adam, when faced with the same decision to choose Himself over God, chose God. The sacrificial lamb was slain for our sins, which means that we are no longer separated from God, but will be joined with Him again in holiness when we die. "As one man's trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one man's act of righteousness leads to acquittal and life for all men."

Romans 5:18

Baptism, as a mechanism to remove the stain of original sin, turns us back toward God by imparting the life of Christ's grace. Through the sacraments, we are able to participate in the grace that Christ won for us on the cross. Confirmation is a completion of the grace that was given to us at baptism. The gifts of the Holy Spirit given at confirmation give us the strength to turn away from sin and combat temptation.

CCC 405

We cannot redeem ourselves — the weight of our sin is too great — but Christ bridged the chasm between humanity and God that opened at the Fall. Redemption is not as easy as simply knowing about it — we have to take hold of it, grasp it, and own it. The Book of Matthew says, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord' shall enter the Kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." It requires something of us, an action. The path is laid out for us — Christ has paved the way for us — but we have to accept it.

Matthew 7:21

BREAK

Please Answer the following questions:

- Think about Christ's sacrifice. What do you think about what He did on the cross for us? Do you think about this sacrifice often or seldom? Why?

- What comes to mind when you imagine eternity? What do you think about heaven and hell?
- In general, do you have a shallow perspective or an eternal perspective on life? Why? What has shaped your perspective?
- Where is your focus? Is it on earthly treasures or heavenly glory? Why?

Restored

Throughout history, God continued to restore the fallen.

Choose one of the saints who started out as a broken sinner and went on to do great work for Christ and the Church.

St. Paul, St. Augustine, St. Mary Magdalene, St. Francis of Assisi, and St. Ignatius of Loyola. Collect information about the saint's life

- **What is this saint known for?**
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- **What is something interesting about this saint?**
- **What is one thing you can apply from their life to the choices you make in your life?**

Fun Bible Trivia Game

See how many questions you **KNOW**, *If you do not know the answer ask a parent or sibling or read the bible to find the answer*

- On what day did God create the land animals?
- What was the name of the man who was killed by his own brother?
- What were the names of the three men in the Book of Daniel who were thrown into a furnace but were not harmed?
- Name four of the 12 tribes of Israel.
- What was the name of Mary's cousin, the mother of John the Baptist?
- How many commandments did Moses bring down from the mountain?
- What was the name of the mountain where Moses received the Ten Commandments?
- What sea did God part when the Egyptians were chasing the Israelites?
- What is the name of the second book of the Bible?
- Name two of the plagues of Egypt.
- Who wore the coat of many colors?

- How many times did Peter deny Jesus?
- What was Abraham's former name prior to his covenant with God?
- What was the sign of God's covenant with Noah?
- What is the name of the place where Jesus was crucified?
- What are the three gifts the wise men brought when Jesus was born?
- Who told the disciples that Jesus was risen from the dead?
- Who do we celebrate during the Feast of the Immaculate Conception?
- What did David slay Goliath with?
- What animal is mentioned most frequently in both the New and Old Testaments?

