

# Creation in Chaos



Genesis 3



We've all had one of those moments where we've made a choice and wished we could change it. Well, imagine making a choice that changed the course of history. In today's Bassline, we continue to journey through the story of creation and witness the moment when Adam and Eve turned away from the will of God. We'll look at how their sin had consequences for us today and consider if we would have done anything differently. As we think about the chaos and environmental impact of sin in this world, we'll see if we can do anything to care for his creation.

## You will need:

- Paper and pens



## Beat

### Leader's notes:

Start the session with the following clip and discuss the questions.

### Watch:

First Look: *Planet Earth III* ft. Hans Zimmer, RAYE and Bastille – BBC Earth (2:28)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZOVZM1rz78>

### Discuss:

- What is your response to the clip? What parts stood out for you?
- The lyrics attributed the wonder of creation to someone; who was it?

### Say:

According to the *Merriam Webster Dictionary*, Mother Nature is defined as 'nature personified as a woman considered as the source and guiding force of creation'.

### Ask:

- How does this description of the source and creator of nature contradict our beliefs as Christians?

- At one point in the lyrics, there is a call for Mother Nature to grant forgiveness for the way humans have treated the world. Where should we actually go to seek forgiveness for the state of our planet?

**Say:**

In today's Bassline, we continue to explore the theme of creation, but our focus will be on the moment humankind turned its back on God's will and created chaos.

 **Bridge****Leader's notes:**

Ask the group to find or describe an image or news story that best represents the way that humans have negatively impacted planet Earth.

 **Amplify****Leader's notes:**

Start the Amplify section with little introduction. Simply read the extracts from Genesis 2 and then start the Adam and Eve music clip.

**Read:**

**When the Lord God made the heavens and the earth, <sup>5</sup> no grass or plants were growing anywhere. God had not yet sent any rain, and there was no one to work the land. <sup>6</sup> But streams came up from the ground and watered the earth.**

**<sup>7</sup> The Lord God took some soil from the ground and made a man. God breathed life into the man, and the man started breathing. <sup>8</sup> The Lord made a garden in a place called Eden, which was in the east, and he put the man there.**

**<sup>9</sup> The Lord God filled the garden with all kinds of beautiful trees and fruit trees. Two other trees were in the middle of the garden. One of these gave life - the other gave the wisdom to know the difference between right and wrong.**

– (Genesis 2:4b–9 CEV)

**<sup>15</sup> The Lord God put the man in the Garden of Eden to take care of it and to look after it.**

**<sup>16</sup> But the Lord told him, "You may eat fruit from any tree in the garden, <sup>17</sup> except the one that has the power to let you know the difference between right and wrong. If you eat any fruit from that tree, you will die before the day is over!"**

**<sup>18</sup> The Lord God said, "It isn't good for the man to live alone. I will make a suitable partner for him." <sup>19-20</sup> So the Lord took some soil and made animals and birds. He brought them to the man to see what names he would give each of them. Then the man named the tame**

animals and the birds and the wild animals. That's how they got their names.

None of these was the right kind of partner for the man. <sup>21</sup> So the Lord God made him fall into a deep sleep, and he took out one of the man's ribs. Then after closing the man's side, <sup>22</sup> the Lord made a woman out of the rib.

The Lord God brought her to the man, <sup>23</sup> and the man exclaimed,

“Here is someone like me!

She is part of my body,  
my own flesh and bones.

She came from me, a man.

So I will name her Woman!”

<sup>24</sup> That's why a man will leave his own father and mother. He marries a woman, and the two of them become like one person.

<sup>25</sup> Although the man and his wife were both naked, they were not ashamed.

– (Genesis 2:15-25 CEV)

**Say:**

Creation was in a state of perfection, and then everything changed.

**Watch:**

Powerful Perspective of Adam and Eve – ‘Good’ featuring Matthew West and Leigh Nash (6:03)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMccBrIYEtc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMccBrIYEtc)

**Ask:**

- How did the song ‘Good’ show the impact of Adam and Eve’s choices?
- Were there any lyrics that felt relatable to your own experience? Share them with the group.

**Say:**

In one moment, the perfect relationship between God and his creation was damaged and distorted. The account of Adam and Eve’s downfall is found in Genesis 3.

**Read:**

<sup>1</sup> Now the snake 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”?’

<sup>2</sup> The woman said to the snake, ‘We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> 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.”’

<sup>4</sup> ‘You will not certainly die,’ the snake said to the woman. <sup>5</sup> ‘For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’

– (Genesis 3:1-5)

**Ask:**

- Check back to Genesis 2:16-17. What did God actually say to Adam?
- How is this information twisted by the snake?

- Why do you think the snake mixes truth with lies when trying to tempt Eve?
- In what ways do we sometimes try to justify our sinful choices on a technicality?

**Read:**

**<sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also 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. <sup>7</sup> 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.**

**<sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> But the Lord God called to the man, 'Where are you?'**

**<sup>10</sup> He answered, 'I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.'**

**<sup>11</sup> And he said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?'**

**<sup>12</sup> The man said, 'The woman you put here with me - she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.'**

**<sup>13</sup> Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this you have done?'**

**The woman said, 'The snake deceived me, and I ate.'**

- (Genesis 3:6-13)

**Ask:**

- Eve often bears the brunt of responsibility for the fall of humankind, but what was Adam's involvement? What different choices could he have made?
- What reason does Eve give in verse 13 for breaking God's command? How is it similar to Adam's response?
- In what way is this relatable to the excuses we give today for not doing what God has asked us to do?

**Say:**

Due to the choices of Adam and Eve, there were significant consequences for the whole of humankind.

**Read:**

**<sup>14</sup> So the Lord God said to the snake, 'Because you have done this,  
'Cursed are you above all livestock  
and all wild animals!**

**You will crawl on your belly  
and you will eat dust  
all the days of your life.**

**<sup>15</sup> 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.'

<sup>16</sup> To the woman he said,

'I will make your pains in childbearing very severe;  
with painful labour you will give birth to children.

Your desire will be for your husband,  
and he will rule over you.'

<sup>17</sup> To Adam he said, 'Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, "You must not eat from it,"

'Cursed is the ground because of you;  
through painful toil you will eat food from it  
all the days of your life.

<sup>18</sup> It will produce thorns and thistles for you,  
and you will eat the plants of the field.

<sup>19</sup> 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.'

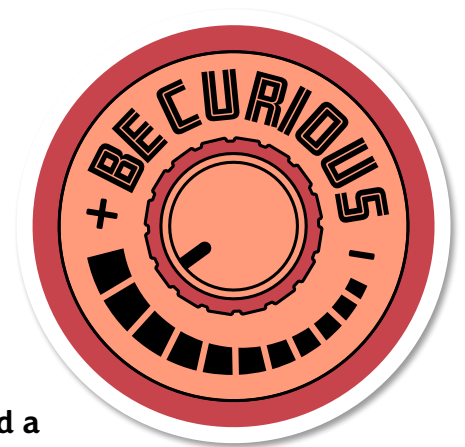
<sup>20</sup> Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the  
mother of all the living.

<sup>21</sup> The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife  
and clothed them. <sup>22</sup> 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.' <sup>23</sup> So the Lord God  
banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground  
from which he had been taken. <sup>24</sup> 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.

– (Genesis 3: 16-24)

**Ask:**

- What punishments did God give the snake, Adam and Eve?
- In what ways do you think they were fair/unfair?
- What does this story teach us about the nature of sin and its consequences?
- Why do you think God allowed Adam and Eve to make the choices they did?



**Leader's notes:**

Read and discuss the following extract from *The Salvation Army Handbook of Doctrine* p111.

**'Humanity has fallen very far from God's intention. Though made in God's image, we are marred and flawed by sin. This has caused disharmony throughout the whole created order. Not only are we ill at ease throughout the whole of our human personality, but we are also out of harmony with the created universe. We are at war with ourselves and with each other, and among races and cultures. Aware of inner strife and fearful of judgement, we turn away from God. This evil that troubles us is found not only in individual lives but is also built into the very structure of society.'**

**Say:**

This extract paints a pretty bleak picture of the ways creation has descended into chaos. Although our focus in this session is on the consequence of sin, we know that there is a story of hope found in Jesus and will explore this in the next Baseline session.

 **Bridge****Ask:**

What is your response to the following quote?

**'I believe ingratitude is the original sin. I believe if Adam and Eve had been grateful for the garden of Eden they had, they would not have focused on the one tree they didn't have.'**

– Max Lucado

 **Sound Check****Say:**

Sadly, there are many areas we could focus on where human sin has negatively impacted God's creation. We live in a world filled with conflict, oppression and slavery, and we see a myriad destructive human behaviours that cause chaos in God's creation. For our Sound Check session today, we're going to focus on the impact of human sin on the environment. At the moment that Adam and Eve realised that they were naked, the market for clothing began!

In The Salvation Army, one of our Mission Priorities is to care for creation, and we are committed to helping change attitudes, resulting in a more responsible use of the planet. We seek to provide practical care and advocacy for people affected by damage to the environment. People will not experience fullness of life unless God's creation is protected and cared for.

For our Sound Check activity, we're going to zoom in on one issue where we could make a difference: fast fashion.

**Leader's notes:**

Watch the following clip together and ask the young people to jot down the key issues facing the people of Ghana regarding Europe's consumption of fast fashion. Discuss these as a group.

**Watch:**

How fast fashion choices in the UK are causing an environmental catastrophe in Ghana – ITV News (3:51)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnKEJprS3xM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnKEJprS3xM)

**Ask:**

- What did you learn from the clip about the impact of fast fashion?
- Were you surprised to see that amount of waste clothing? If so, why/why not?
- What is your reaction to the amount of graduation and festival merchandise found in the piles of clothing?

**Leader's notes:**

Ask the group to Sound Check their own clothes usage. How has the clip changed their perspective on the clothes they buy and wear? Ask them to think of practical ways to reduce their fast-fashion consumption or increase awareness among their friends and family. Is this an environmental issue that they could raise within the church community? If so, how?

**Ask:**

In what way does our consumption of fast fashion reflect the brokenness of God's original plan for creation?

**Discuss:**

Share one action point you can take away from this session to live more in line with God's plan for creation.

 **Bridge****Leader's notes:**

If your group would like to explore the theme of caring for creation further, watch and discuss the clip below.

**Watch:**

Why Christians Should Care for Creation – BioLogos (2:41)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=tOu3sVuTUHc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tOu3sVuTUHc)



## Selah

### **Say:**

For our Selah moment, we're going to reflect on the story of Adam and Eve and think about how its message relates to our personal faith journey. I'm going to read an extract from Nichole Nordeman's book *Love Story - The Hand that Holds Us from the Grave to the Gates*, then we will discuss it.

### **Leader's notes:**

Discuss Nichole Nordeman's perspective on Adam and Eve's behaviour and the choices they could have made. Focus on Nichole's final comments. How do the young people feel about her conclusion: that if creation had stayed perfect all this time, then she would have been the one to wreck it all? In what way do they relate to this take on the Adam and Eve story?

### **Say:**

**'I know it's easy to read the story and feel smug, as if we would have certainly chosen otherwise. My inner cynic demands, "Was complete utopia not quite enough for Eve? Was she not satisfied enough with her burden-free life, nestled in paradise, wanting for nothing, and lunching with God? How do you actually experience the grass-is-greener phenomenon in Eden, lady?!"**

**And Adam. Could he not have found the courage to challenge Eve's decision to eat the fruit? Did he not possess enough conviction or bravery to stand up to a naked lady and an apple? Not exactly Goliath, buddy. Way to man up.**

**In our sophisticated modern faith, we shake our heads at their choices. We blame our personal pain and the whole world's ills on that pivotal moment, the fall. When we don't know how to explain away broken hearts or hurricanes or cancer or war, we point to Adam and Eve and say, "Hey, thanks a lot, guys."**

**Of course, there's truth in tracing the path of darkness right back to a shady tree and a tragic choice, but I think Adam and Eve get a bad rap. Because I know this much: if we had managed to live in peace and harmony in the garden for thousands upon thousands of years, all of creation in a perpetual state of spotless obedience and blissful paradise until the 21st century, I would have been the one who wrecked it all to pieces.'**

*– Love Story - The Hand that Holds Us from the Grave to the Gates, Nichole Nordeman pp13-14*

### **Say:**

Take a moment to think about an area in your life where you are ignoring God's will for you. As we sit in silent prayer together, bring that issue to God and ask for his wisdom. Often, we know exactly what we need to stop, or start, doing – but the focus today is on having an honest conversation with God and recognising where we have fallen outside of his will.

### **Leader's notes:**

Ideally, the group will have a moment of silence during this time of prayer. But if they are not comfortable with this, instrumental music is provided.



**Watch:**

'Love Me Like I Am' – For King & Country (Piano Cover) The Piano Guys (4:30)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=LEdOu1Sy-dM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LEdOu1Sy-dM)

When the group have spent time in reflection, then bring the session to a close in prayer.



**Ask:**

As you reflect on everything you have learned today, what is the one thing you will take away from this session that has deepened your understanding of our role in caring for creation?

**Leader's notes:**

Give the young people a moment to think about your question and briefly share their coda with the group before the session comes to an end.

