



### *‘CREATED’ CATECHETICAL STUDY KIT*

- Introduction and suggested schedule
- Suggested group activity
- Bible Study on Genesis 1-3, with optional small group discussion questions
- Compline, suggested propers

## *LEADER INTRODUCTION*

This Study is designed to be a catechetical bible study in question and answer/lecture format on Genesis 1-3. Students/teens only need their Bibles.

This study covers a good chunk of material from Genesis. The questions and answers here are suggested as guides for a study. Most often, a leader should allow teens to answer questions freely, and then give further exposition on the text or topic.

Using the Biblical text as your guide, you may launch into discussions on the vocations of man/woman, husband/wife, father/mother. Some suggested small-group discussion questions are included.

Parishes may consider hosting a youth day or night(s) with church youth or youth from a few local parishes. A schedule might look something like this:

### **One-Day/Evening Schedule:** ~ 2.5 hrs

- **Activity / Ice Breaker** ~20-30 min
- **Study: Section I-II** ~45 min
- **Break for Pizza** ~15 min
- **Study: Section III-IV** ~45 min
- **Compline** ~10 min
- **Clean Up** ~5 min

It is our hope that by facilitating studies like this, it will give pastors and leaders an opportunity to encourage more of their youth to come to LYA, and also encourage youth with the Gospel who still may not come to LYA.

This study was put together by Rev. Jeff Hendrix, secretary of the Board for Youth Outreach and pastor at Faith Lutheran Church, Oregon, WI.

## *SUGGESTED ACTIVITY*

### **CREATE your own pizza!**

In advance: Leaders can prep pizza dough, pizza sauce, cheese, and toppings.

Pair youth into groups and have them create their own pizzas. Allow 20-30 minutes. Cook Pizza during the first study.

## ‘CREATED’ STUDY

### I. ADAM’S VOCATION

1. Quickly skim through **Genesis 1**, stopping to read **Genesis 1:26-28**. What did God say at the end of each day, after His work of creating? What does He create on the sixth day? What does He say about them?

Moses repeats: “it was good.” When God speaks of the goodness of His creation, He tells us that His creation which lives from Him, is complete and lacks nothing. This includes even man and woman, whom God created on the 6th day. God created them “in His image” – “Male and female, *He created them.*”

2. **Genesis 2:7-9, 15-17**. Who did God put in the Garden? For what purpose did God place him in the garden?

God placed a man, Adam, in the garden. Adam was to be the steward or the minister, the one to serve and take care of all creation – including his wife, whom God would soon create. He was to show God’s love to her: He was to protect her. He was to preach God’s Word to her. He was to provide for her. Adam embodied the Three Estates (earthly government, church, and home).

3. What did God promise the man about the two trees that were in the Garden? What does this teach us?

To the Tree of Life, God attached the promise of life. To the other tree, God attached the promise of death. If Adam believed and ate, he would continue to live. If Adam would turn away from the Lord, his unbelief would cause death and separation from God. The point was not that some trees were bad (nothing was bad), the point was that man was to live by faith in God.

4. What was the relationship of man, woman, and God like?

The Triune God created mankind as He is. God is *Triune*, three distinct persons in one God. God created mankind to be two distinct persons, male and female, but joined together in marriage they are to be one. Yet they still are not complete without God, for from Him they receive their life.

#### Optional Discussion Questions:

- Study carefully Genesis 1:27-28. The image of God included the perfect knowledge, holiness, and glory of God. These are lost at the fall into sin. But there are physical characteristics too that are retained. How are man and woman, together, the “image of God”? Likewise, how is the promise of having children part of “the image of God?”
- It often happens that when young adults who had previously strayed from the church get married or have children, they often find their way back to church or heighten their commitment. Why might this be? Might it have anything to do with coming closer as the image of God once again?

## II. THE FIRST MARRIAGE

5. **Genesis 2:18-25.** Recall that God said everything He created was “good.” What surprising thing does God say in 2:18? What was not good?

It was not good for man to be alone. God made mankind to be like Him – to have communication and fellowship with one another. God is also love. God creates man to be a recipient of His love. Adam too, needs someone to receive his love.

6. What does God do? How does God create woman?

Adam is put into a deep sleep. While Adam is asleep, God creates a woman from the side of Adam. This is still on the sixth day of creation, a Friday.

Note that this is the same day that our Lord, the New Man, is put into the sleep of death. Christ’s side is pierced, from which blood and water flow out, forming His bride, the Church.

7. In v. 24, what does God say the man should do? What institution is God creating here? What is marriage?

He is to leave his father and mother and be united to his wife. God is instituting the estate of **marriage**.

**Catechism Definition: Marriage is the lifelong union of one man and one woman into one flesh, entered by mutual consent and promise.**

8. What is significant about leaving father and mother and being joined to the wife? Recall also the parallel promise God gave in Genesis 1:28: “Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply.” What does this say about the blessings of marriage?

Man will leave his family to begin a new family, the most basic structure God has designed.

The blessings of marriage are mutual companionship, sexual intimacy, and the gift of childbearing.

Companionship can be found in friendship, but only a husband and wife, who have vowed to be faithful, will experience this companionship for the rest of their life. Sexual intimacy and childbearing are both a result of becoming “one flesh” with your spouse.

**Catechism Definition: Adultery refers to forbidden sexual relations, especially unfaithfulness to one’s partner in marriage, as well as all unchaste thoughts and conduct in sexual matters.**

In Gen. 1:28, somewhat unexpectedly, God *blessed* the man and woman, telling them to “be fruitful and multiply.” Consider that this immediately follows the passage that says they were created in the image of God. God’s command (law) to have children is a *blessing* (gospel). Children are a gift. Married couples whom the Lord permits to have children will be blessed.

**Optional Discussion Questions:**

- How is the Biblical view of marriage different from the world's?
- Are there blessings in getting married young?
- How is the Biblical view of children different from the world's?
- Some people are either not able to have children or not able to marry. In these cases, what might you say to encourage someone with this unique vocation?

Our world considers marriage as something to be put off until later. Our world desires the blessings of marriage apart from marriage. Our sinful nature makes sex (intended to be a good gift from God) into a selfish act.

Likewise, our world considers children as something to be avoided, or at the very least, "controlled." The modern idea of "birth control" steals the gift of children from this one flesh union, or gives individuals the false idea they can control when to have or not have children or how many children to have. Only God is in control of life. Noteable is the fact that after the Flood, God re-establishes His blessing of childbearing (Genesis 9:6-7). But here, God also now needs to add a command to not kill, for "God made man in His own image." "But you," God says, as if differentiating believers from non-believers, "be fruitful and multiply. Increase abundantly on the earth, and multiply on it." Those who love God will also love life.

Some people are unable to have children. Some people, especially those who may be tempted with same-sex attraction, will be unable to marry. Yet, disciplining our bodies, devoting them to the Lord can be an immense blessing. Cf. **Matthew 19:8-12** & **1 Corinthians 7:1-9, 25-35**

### III. GOOD VOCATIONS OVERTURNED

9. **Genesis 3:1-13.** Who is the serpent? To whom did the serpent speak? What did the serpent ask Eve?

The Serpent, related to the Hebrew word “seraphim,” is the devil. He is the ancient dragon, whose name means *deceiver*. The devil speaks half-truths and lies.

Note how the devil operates: When the Lord God spoke in Genesis 2, He spoke to Adam. Eve received God’s good Word through Adam. Adam was Eve’s teacher, her “pastor,” her protector, and provider. But now the devil enters the garden and does not speak to Adam, but to Eve. Satan is always doing things in the reverse of God. He calls God a liar. Eve listens to him. She carries on a conversation with him.

10. Was the woman present when the word of the Lord came to Adam concerning the trees of the garden? How did she know what God had promised concerning the two trees? Was Eve’s quoting of God’s command exactly the same as God had given it in Genesis 2:16-17?

Eve was not present when God gave Adam His promise about the two trees. She adds “we shall not touch it...” She was not being unfaithful. Rather, she was likely simply *repeating* what her husband had taught her in God’s stead and by His command.

Adam had, as a faithful teacher of God’s good Word, probably instructed her not even to touch the fruit on the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He wanted her, for her good, to stay away from the tree. And yet, it’s here that the devil now plants a seed of doubt in Eve’s mind: “Did God really say?”

11. What does the devil call God? What does the devil promise the woman? Was the devil telling the truth?

The devil calls God a liar. He promises that they will be like God if they simply take for themselves what God in His goodness had not given them.

12. Where is Adam during Eve’s conversation? What does Eve do? What does Adam NOT do?

Adam is right there with her (3:6)!

As protector, Adam should have protected Eve from the serpent: either by pulling her away or defending her, even giving his life if necessary.

As her pastor, Adam was called to speak the truth. He should have warned her of this sin. Then, once Eve ate, Adam should have rebuked her using the law, and then absolved her sin by the gospel, perhaps giving her from the tree of life.

As her provider, he should have provided everything she needed so she had no need to listen to the serpent. But Adam does none of this. He allows his wife to be put into danger. He remains silent. He does not provide what his wife needs. Even before he eats, he fails in his vocation. So, Adam allows Eve to take his vocation and he listens to Eve and eats.

13. When Adam takes and eats the fruit, what happened to both of them? What reaction do Adam and Eve have when they hear “the sound of the Lord God” and His voice in the garden? Why does God come looking for them? (Does God come looking for them to yell at them?)

Once Adam ate, all creation is now cursed. Their eyes were opened, but it was not for the better. They now knew sin, good *and evil*, and their sin brought death.

They hide from the Lord God when they hear His voice in the garden. This is our natural reaction after we realize our sin. We try to run away from those who might help (such as parents, spouses, or pastors), and we try to hide or cover up our sin.

God came looking for them not to yell at them, but to forgive them! He asked questions in the hope that Adam and Eve might repent of their sins. Instead, they continue to lie and deflect. As a result, God must allow curses to come upon them, yet not without another gracious promise...

#### Optional Discussion Questions:

- Why is our natural reaction to recognition of our sin to run away and hide? How might we train ourselves to not hide or run when we inevitably fall into shameful sin or vice?
- When someone sins against us that we have a responsibility over, it is difficult for us to not respond in self-righteous anger (“See, I told you that you shouldn’t do that!”). Can you come up with a scenario of a sin, and a gospel-centered response seeking repentance and faith? (In other words, how might you respond to someone who commits a sin?)
- Can you share any times when your parents, pastor, or other people who love you came looking for you so that they might give you the gospel?

## IV. THE PROMISE

14. **Genesis 3:14-16.** How has Satan’s entering into the creation and man’s fall into sin affected the creation?

All of creation is now cursed. The ancient dragon, the serpent the devil, has his wings clipped. The serpent is made to crawl on his belly as a sign that creation is now groaning because her steward, man, has fallen into sin and rebelled against God. Man’s sin has not just affected him, but all of creation over which he had been given dominion. Every person will feel the effects of sin, particularly within the vocations God has given them.

15. **Genesis 3:16.** How had the woman denied her God-given office? What is the curse of the fall particularly for the woman?

Eve’s sin is now her curse. Eve’s taking of the fruit means that the fruit from her will be bitter. Childbearing, God’s promise to allow man and women to be fruitful, will now be met with pain and suffering – not only at the birth of children but in the struggles of child rearing as well. Because she usurped Adam’s authority in conversing with the devil, woman’s desire will be to usurp the headship of man. Still, he must exercise his

headship over her, particularly in the teaching of God's Word, but he will be tempted to rule/lord it over her, rather than acting as steward on her behalf.

16. **Genesis 3:17-19.** How had the man denied his God-given office? What is the curse of the fall particularly for the man?

Adam's sin is also his curse. Because Adam was lazy in his vocations of providing and protecting his wife, man will experience the bitter toil of labor as he struggles against all kinds of difficulties in providing for his family. Because Adam listened to the voice of his wife, and allowed her to be the teacher of God's Word, man will be especially prone to abandoning his vocation, especially in spiritual matters, and will tend to give over his headship to the woman. Finally, man will return to the dust out of which he was made.

Although it was Eve who was tempted first, it is Adam who is blamed for the fall into sin. Adam was the head. The Bible clearly teaches that "through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned" (Romans 5:12).

17. How does God promise salvation to man in verse 15? Who restores man to Paradise?

In Genesis 3:15 the Lord God promises salvation in the Seed of the woman who, by suffering and death, would crush the devil's dominion over man and redeem him from sin and death. The Lord will use the same means by which sin and death came into the world as the means by which He will redeem the world.

The fruit of a woman, will die upon a tree, through whom the world will live.

18. **Genesis 3:20-23.** Why does the Lord God drive man out of the garden and prevent man from eating of the tree of life? It is at this point that Adam (re)names his wife Eve. What does this show about Adam's faith?

As men and women struggle with their own sin under the curse of the fall, they come to understand their helpless condition and how much they need God, not only as their Creator, but as their Redeemer.

Adam and Eve were driven out of the garden so that they might not eat from the tree of life now and live forever in sin and shame. God is going to use even death now to bring them to a newer and greater life.

Adam's wife is no longer called simply *woman*, but Eve. Adam trusts that she will be the mother not of the dying, but of the *living*! He trusts God's promise to restore humanity to life.

#### Optional Discussion Questions:

- Men, if we think of the three duties Adam was called to: provide, protect, and teach: which do you think might be the most difficult for you to be faithful in fulfilling?
- Women, if we think of Eve's calling to listen to her husband and bear fruit in love, are there times when it will be difficult to do so?



## CLOSING COMPLINE SUGGESTION

Close the youth event with the office of Compline on **page 128** in ELH.

As a way to train young men to be speakers of the Word (like Adam was called to be), you may wish to have the men read the leader parts. The women can respond with the parts in bold. This resource in our Hymnary is for families to use in a manner such as this, with the head of the household leading.

### *Suggested Propers:*

**Hymn:** “How Lovely Shines the Morning Star” | **ELH 167 vv. 1-4**

This hymn has been called the “Queen of Chorales” and has been a traditional Lutheran wedding hymn for nearly 500 years. Note how in v. 3 we “cry and sigh” for the Lord’s Favor (like a person seeking the favor of a potential spouse?), and then in v. 4 how God’s eyes are lovingly turned toward us.

**Psalm:** **Psalm 127** “Unless the Lord builds the house...”

Wisdom from Solomon on family life. It is not we who control the success of our family vocations, but God. Notice how highly children are praised in the Psalm.

**Chapter:** (use standard verse of Jeremiah 14:1)

