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Section: Doctrine of Sin

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

**Q35. How did Adam and Eve sin?**

Satan tempted and deceived Eve to disobey God by eating the forbidden fruit, then she gave it to Adam, and he also disobeyed God. Adam and Eve did not fully trust God’s word, so they were vulnerable to temptation.

**Q36. Why does Adam’s sin affect everyone else?**

God chose Adam to act as the representative of the entire human race. With the test that God set before Adam, He was testing the whole of mankind. In this, Adam accurately represented us.

1. We see in the Genesis account that Satan used falsehood to tempt and deceive Eve. Our practical take-away from that point was: “*We need to know sound doctrine and not accept teaching that contradicts it*.” Discuss with your group the importance of this, and the ways you’ve been growing in sound doctrine through the faithful Bible teaching at the church.
2. Related to the last point, what other practical steps have you taken, or should you take, to purge falsehood from your life? (How does your personal library of “Christian” books look? Are they all truly sound? What other resources/studies do you do—are they all truly sound? Do you need help making some of these decisions from elders/teachers/leaders?)
3. Federal Headship is the wise plan of God. By it, God can save His people on the basis of Jesus Christ. Explain to your group how the doctrine of Federal Headship helps to inform you more deeply about the glorious gospel. Make the connections for each other if someone needs help.
4. Do you have the temptation to think that you would have obeyed perfectly where Adam failed? Discuss with your group how, “*given God’s infallibility, I can never argue that Adam was a poor choice to represent me. God’s choice of Adam was a perfect choice.*”
5. Because of sin, there are truths we find in the Bible we might be tempted to think make God unjust or not as wise as what we could drum up. We considered one of the many rebukes/warnings in Scripture to this temptation in Romans 9:20: *“But who are you, a mere man, to talk back to God?”* How are you doing on this? Are you trusting the Bible and loving God humbly, or are you giving in to your pride that pushes against what we learn in the Bible about God and His ways?
6. Sometimes we can see clearly the ways that sin affects more than just the one committing it. The sin of Adam is the most clear and substantial example of this. Make this personal for you; how does knowing your sin can, and does, affect others help you fight sin and conform to the image of Christ?
7. In a previous lesson, and restated today, we learned that God made Adam and Eve good and righteous, but they were not made infallible nor immutable in their nature. Discuss how this wise way of creating Adam and Eve plays into God’s amazing plan to display His grace and justice.
8. The effect of the fall spoken of in Romans 5 is death. We learned one of the two meanings of death: “Bodily death and the brokenness of our bodies.” But one of the gospel-based promises of God is that He’ll remove this effect for the elect when Christ returns: Philippians 3:20-21 *“…our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.”* Without idolizing the gift over the Giver, discuss how God is good in this promise.