



The Story



creation.fall.redemption.return

Lesson 2 of 4 from Story of the Bible

Glory Stolen (Lesson 2 of 4)

Scope and Sequence

Felt Need: I like to make choices that focus on me, and I don't want the consequences.

Doctrine: The Fall

Objective

Students will see the consequences of choosing pride and take active steps to replace pride by cultivating humility.

Memory Verse

Galatians 6:14

What is the only thing worth bragging about?

Worth Repeating: The way up is down.

THE FELT NEED: I like to make choices that focus on me, and I don't want the consequences.

- Last week we began a series on the Story of the Bible. In short, we said the Bible is the story of God's glory.
- Forced Choice Game
I am going to list places that you could choose to go on a dare from your best friends. If you would accept the dare, go to the right side of the room.
 - o White house lawn (uninvited)
 - o To the top edge of a 300' cliff that didn't have a railing
 - o Into a small opening in a dark cave
 - o Times Square in NY to watch the ball drop on New Year's Eve
 - o American Idol or America's Got Talent auditions
 - o Smelly outhouse or port-a-potty
 - o To the wrong side of a "No Trespassing" sign during hunting season
- Life is full of choices and while we usually like the freedom to choose, part of the maturing process is learning that we need to think ahead to the consequences of our choices.
- Sometimes the choices we make are self-centered, blinding us to unintended consequences.

THE TRUTH:

- A. A choice to go up that was down. (Ezekiel 28)
 1. One of the highest angels (Satan) became so proud of his great intelligence and powers that he deceived himself into thinking that he could overthrow the sovereign rule of God.
 2. Satan actually believed that the way up was up. By that we mean he thought he could reach the top of the ladder of success by self-promotion.
- B. Three lies that bring death (Genesis 3:1-5)
 1. Lie #1 – God is unfair.
Satan questions God’s rules, hinting that God is being unfair by not allowing them to eat from all the trees in the Garden of Eden.
 2. Lie #2 – God is dishonest.
He accuses God of not even having the facts right.
 3. Lie #3 – God is selfish.
He implies that God is trying to keep them from becoming like God.
 - Adam and Eve were surprised that their simple act of disobedience had such devastating consequences.
- C. Five consequences of pride
 1. They died spiritually.
 - Their relationship with God had been the source of eternal life, but now they were spiritually dead.
 2. They died physically.
 - Even though they lived much longer than we do today, they eventually did die and this was a direct result of their sin.
 3. They lost their ability to manage God’s world.
 - Adam and Eve tried to steal some of the glory for themselves by being their own boss.
 4. They made their work harder.
 - We call this “the curse” (Genesis 3:14-16).
 - The world became a far more dangerous and difficult place to live.
 5. They transferred membership from God’s kingdom of life to Satan’s kingdom of suffering.
 - In the rebellion against God, instead of greatly improving their standing, they permanently threw away the awesome abundance and potential God had in store for them.

THE CONNECTION:

1. Self-promotion is in.
 - Many students answered the question, “Who is your hero?” saying, “Me. I’m my own hero.”
 - We want attention and respect, love and acceptance and it is tempting to think that the best way to get it is to “self-promote.”
2. Pride has consequences.
 - Show the video, “Brain Surgeon – That Mitchell & Webb Look , Series 3 – BBC Two”
 - When you are full of pride it gets very lonely and hard to find real friends because few people want to be around you.
3. Think of yourself less.
 - A humble student is not a loser or a failure in life; they just do not focus on promoting self.

- Take note of the following verses, and you will get a clear picture of how you can replace pride in your life as you cultivate humility:
 - o Proverbs 16:18-19
 - o Matthew 23:12
 - o Galatians 6:14

THE DECISION:

- When you are wrong, admit it.
- Make a point to encourage others.
- Brag about Jesus.

Definitions

Pride: an exaggerated view of one's own importance, love for oneself
Humility: the quality of being without pride, having a proper view of self

Checklist

- Laser pointer (or spotlight)
- Hammer
- Handheld mirror which you will smash
- Circle or area on the wall with the label "God" at the center
- Small garbage bag (and possibly a hammer)
- Lesson Power Point
- Equipment to show YouTube video
 Video, "Brain Surgeon – That Mitchell & Webb Look , Series 3 – BBC Two" – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=THNPmhBl-8I>

Resources

Showers, Renald E. What on Earth is God Doing? (Bellmawr, NJ: The Friends of Israel, 2008), 12-13,
 Ibid, p.14-16
 Ibid. p.16
 Rainey, Dennis. Real Family Life podcast: "Who's Your Hero?" August 27, 2015.
<http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/391029-what-kills-a-skunk-is-the-publicity-it-gives-itself>

Additional Teacher Resources:

An excellent article to forward to parents...
<http://www.familylife.com/articles/topics/parenting/challenges/attitude-problems/checking-pride-and-rebellion-during-adolescence>

The Felt Need: I like to make choices that focus on me, and I don't want the consequences.

Last week we began a series on the "Story of the Bible." In short, we said the Bible is the story of God's glory. The story of redemption is the core of the story, but there is more to the story than the core. The bigger picture is the story of God's glory.

Do you remember what glory is? Glory is two things: first, it is something God is, but second, it is something God can receive. When we say God is glorious, we are saying He is magnificent, supreme, honorable, worthy, and majestic. We're saying He has no equal. And because of who God is, He deserves to receive glory from all of His creation. We are meant to give God glory, which could also be called praise, honor, worship, reverence, respect, and so on. We were created with God's image

inside of us and given the responsibility of managing God's newly created world in a way that reflects (like a mirror) all the attention back to His greatness or glory.

This is how the story of the Bible begins. But as we all know, there is clearly more to the story than the first few pages. So to help us unveil the next "chapter" of God's story, why don't we start today with a game. It is called "Forced Choice."

Forced Choice Game

Forced Choice is a simple game where everyone starts in the middle of the room and moves to one side of the room or the other to indicate your choice. You cannot stay in the middle, and you only have ten seconds to make your choice. Do not over-think it; just go with your first gut reaction.

Teacher's Note

Have everyone leave their chairs and stand in the middle of the room. Then give the final directions.

I am going to list places that you could choose to go, as a dare from your best friends. If you would accept the dare, go to the right side of the room. If you would not accept it, go to the left. We are assuming money and time are not an issue. Have fun; use your imagination a little but choose quickly.

- White House lawn (uninvited)
- To the top edge of a 300' cliff that didn't have a railing
- Into a small opening in a dark cave
- Times Square in NY to watch the ball drop on New Year's Eve
- American Idol or America's Got Talent auditions
- Smelly outhouse or port-a-potty
- To the wrong side of a "No Trespassing" sign during hunting season
- To your chair. (And no, that is not a choice.☺)

Life is full of choices and while we usually like the freedom to choose, part of the maturing process is learning that we need to think ahead to the consequences of our choices. For example, did you know that entering the White House lawn uninvited would be choosing to be interrogated by the Secret Service? And if you chose to go to Times Square to watch the ball drop on New Year's Eve, you would also be choosing a bathroom dilemma? Your only options are to wear a diaper (the popular option), to "hold it" for hours, or to lose your spot on the square permanently to visit some indoor plumbing. Sometimes the choices we make are self-centered, blinding us to unintended consequences. This is what the next part of God's story is all about.

The Truth:

A. A choice to go up that was **down**. (Ezekiel 28)

We might be tempted to think that the next "chapter of God's story" is about us, but it actually starts earlier with one of God's highest ranking angels. The Genesis account sheds virtually no light on this layer of the story, but Ezekiel 28 does. Turn there, please. Ezekiel 28 is a prophecy and a sad poem against someone called "the King of Tyre." The first ten verses are a prophecy of the destruction that was coming against the Prince of Tyre (v.2), the human ruler of the nation. But every prince has a king, and in this case the next verses describe who that king was. As we read Ezekiel 28:11-14 now, look for clues that identify this king.

What are the clues that describe the King of Tyre? (Answers: the seal of perfection, in Eden, anointed guardian cherub, on the holy mountain of God) Who is this most likely describing? (Answer: Lucifer / Satan). He was something like the puppeteer pulling the strings of the earthly king of Tyre. He motivated the earthly king to think of himself as a god! But that is not any different than Satan's sin as we see in 28:17 (read). The phrase "his heart was lifted up" means he became proud. In other words, he had an exaggerated view of his own importance.

Here is how Renald Showers describes it in his book "What on Earth is God Doing?"

- "One of the highest angels (Satan) became so **proud** of his great intelligence and powers that he deceived himself into thinking that he could **overthrow** the sovereign rule of God. He hoped to make himself the king of the universe by establishing a kingdom of his own that would war against and destroy God's kingdom. Because of this angel's rebellion against God, his name was changed to Satan, which means adversary."
- So the story of God's glory takes a serious plot turn with the attempted coup of God by Satan. He tried to steal God's glory. Logic should tell anyone that a creature could never win a fight against the Creator, and Satan is clearly created. Beyond logic, Satan's pride drove him to risk it all and seek to overthrow God! Satan actually believed that the way up was **up**. Do you know anyone who works like that? Maybe it is the way they cut others down or gossip or even physically beat others down so they can be number one. They are so driven to be first that it does not matter who they have to knock off the ladder of success to get there. When pride is unchecked this is exactly the kind of actions a person takes, just like Satan.

But instead of moving himself up, Satan found a very painful and embarrassing slide down. God had to humiliate him by throwing him out of heaven. Did he humble himself and repent? Not a chance! In fact, pride hardened him in rebellion even further. Satan convinced a sizable number of angels to follow him in the rebellion (see Revelation 12:4; he probably took 1/3 of God's angels with him). That was a lot of angels swinging over to his side. For someone whose goal was total domination of heaven and earth, he fell far short but that did not stop him. We see him returning to the story in Genesis 3 with the temptation of Adam and Eve.

B. Three lies that bring **death**.

Like a snake in the grass Satan entered the earthly battlefield slithering up to his two victims with his weapon of choice, the lie. He is the father of lies (John 8:44) and is always on the attack. So turn to Genesis 3:1-5 and let us read about his first attack. In what appears to be a very pleasant conversation, Satan smears the character of God with three lies:

1. Lie #1 – God is **unfair**. (Read Genesis 3:1.) Satan questions God's rules, hinting that God is being **unfair** by not allowing them to eat from all the trees in the Garden of Eden.
2. Lie #2 – God is **dishonest**. (Read Genesis 3:4.) He accuses God of not even having the **facts** right.

3. Lie #3 – God is **selfish**. (Read Genesis 3:5.) He implies that God is trying to keep them from becoming **like** God, that life would be so much better if they could know good and evil just like God.

Adam and Eve are totally unaware of the back story leading up to this temptation. They know nothing of the evil Satan has plotted against God or the angelic rebellion. Like innocent hobbits in the shire (think Lord of the Rings) they are perfectly content and naïve until evil finds its way to them. And with the promise of being gods staring them in the face, they grabbed the fruit, took a bite ... and destroyed everything and brought death into the world!

Just like most of us were surprised that a visit to Times Square on New Year's Eve had nasty, unintended bathroom consequences, so Adam and Eve were surprised that their simple act of disobedience had such devastating consequences. They, like Satan, got it all wrong thinking the way up was up when the reverse is true. But choices always have consequences, and we usually do not like them, especially consequences of pride. Their simple choice to disobey was really an attempt to do things their own way – to be their own boss, just like Satan. Pride opens a virtual "Pandora's box" of unintended consequences.

C. Five consequences of **pride**.

Let us look at the top five consequences of Adam and Eve's sin:

1. They died **spiritually** (as did all of humanity).
 - Their relationship with God had been the source of eternal life, but now they were spiritually **dead**. They were permanently cut off from God. See Genesis 2:17.
2. They died **physically**.
 - Physical death always follows spiritual death. Even though they lived much longer than we do today, they eventually did die and this was a **direct** result of their sin.
3. They lost their ability to **manage** God's world.

Teacher's Note

For this first part of the illustration, hold the handheld mirror in one hand and the laser in the other. Reflect the laser off the mirror and back to the area designated "God."

- Last week we used a mirror to illustrate what God designed his image bearers to do, that is reflect His glory back to Him. We aimed a laser pointer at a mirror and tried to reflect the light back to the source, God Himself. In their arrogance Adam and Eve moved the mirror away from the laser. Adam and Eve tried to steal some of the glory for themselves by being their own **boss**. They acted like they knew better than God, and the unintended consequence was that they shattered the image of God.

Teacher's Note

Quickly double wrap the mirror in a garbage bag, then hit the mirror with a hammer or bang it on the floor until it is completely shattered. Carefully remove the bag enough to let students see the broken pieces. Be sure it is completely shattered, but watch out for shards of broken glass poking through the bag. Then ask the following question. "How well could they glorify God in His world now? Clearly it is impossible, not just difficult! But it gets worse."

4. They made their work **harder**. We call this “the **curse**” (Genesis 3:14-16). The world became a far more dangerous and **difficult** place to live.
 - The perfect environment began to grow weeds.
 - Gentle giants of the animal kingdom became carnivorous.
 - Pregnancy became painful.
 - The perfect marriage turned into a competition, Adam versus Eve, instead of Adam and Eve.

5. They transferred membership from God’s kingdom of **life** to Satan’s kingdom of **suffering**.
 - Satan’s promise of independence did not bring them a single hour of freedom. Instead of being kings of their own domain, they became slaves of a deceiving tyrant who offered death, sickness, conflict, grief, and frustration in return for serving him. In the rebellion against God, instead of greatly improving their standing, they **permanently** threw away the awesome abundance and potential God had in store for them.

The Connection:

1. Self-**promotion** is in.

- Today the battle between God and Satan rages on inside of us like it did in the Garden of Eden. Pride is a huge problem for everyone. Dennis Rainey, founder of Family Life Ministries, tells of a time that he substitute taught an eighth grade English class the first day back from summer vacation. He asked the students to answer seven questions, one of which was, “Who is your hero?” Many held their parents or grandparents up as heroes. Many said they didn’t have any heroes. But he was stunned by how a number of them answered the question. Many of the students answered the question, “Who is your hero?” saying, “**Me**. I’m my own hero.” This is so normal and supported in our culture it becomes hard to see it as wrong.

- A huge part of teen life is discovering who you are, what you are good at, what you are not, and what life is about. And while this is natural, it is not always healthy because we end up swelling with pride in our performance (in grades, sports, music, or work). We want attention and respect, love and acceptance, and it is **tempting** to think that the best way to get it is to “self-promote.”

2. Pride has **consequences**.

What happens when we brag about ourselves? How do we come across? This example is a little “over-the-top,” but try to summarize how we come across to others as you watch this brain surgeon at a party.

Show the video, “Brain Surgeon – That Mitchell & Webb Look, Series 3 – BBC Two” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=THNPmhBI-8I>, then ask the following questions:

How did the brain surgeon come across to the social worker and accountant?

Answers: arrogant, cocky, self-absorbed, hypocritical, not authentic.

How real and open will others be with people who come across as arrogant?

Teacher’s Note

Like the accountant and social worker, people cannot get away from proud people fast enough. Like the rocket scientist, we just want to “put them in their place” – humble them.

- When you are full of pride it gets very lonely and hard to find real **friends** because few people want to be around you. Isolation and emptiness are fruit of the cocky person, even if they are surrounded by crowds. Pride is all about you getting glory for yourself and no one else. This is the exact opposite of giving glory to God and opposite of the purpose you were created for.

3. Think of yourself **less**.

A humble student is not a loser or a failure in life; they just do not focus on **promoting** self. Instead they have a proper view of themselves and seek to bring glory to God with all they do. Take note of the following verses and you will get a clear picture of how you can replace pride in your life as you cultivate humility:

- Proverbs 16:18-19 (*read*) – “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.” **The way up is down**, so humble yourself.
- Matthew 23:12 (*read*) – “And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” Do you notice how confident Jesus is about this statement? It is not a question of “if” a proud person will fall; it is a question of “when.”
- Galatians 6:14 (*read*) – “But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.” What is the solution? Remember that humble people do not think less of themselves; they think of themselves less.

The Decision:

There are three simple responses that flow from a humble heart. All three reflect an authentic humility, not a cheap imitation.

- When you are wrong, admit it. Honestly confess your sins to God and others. Almost 100% of the time they will forgive you. You just have to be authentic and honest. Do not cover it up.
- Make a point to encourage others. Humble people continually work at encouraging others so the focus is off of themselves. The more you try to encourage others, the easier it becomes to forget about yourself.
- Brag about Jesus. For every sin we put off – pride in status, pride in strength, pride in possessions, pride in accomplishments, pride in wisdom or intelligence, or pride in ambition – we put on pride in Christ and the cross. Follow Paul’s example from Galatians 6:14. You will never regret it!

Remember that **the way up is down**. Are you on the way up through genuine humility or on the way down through selfish pride?