

## Eve

**Memory Verse:** *The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him" (Gen. 2:18).*

### Background Helps:

Eve, "the mother of all the living" (Gen. 3:20) is the first woman in the Bible, the first woman in human history, and the first woman we will consider in our study of Prominent Women of the Bible. This lesson on Eve will be one of our most important studies, since she was the prototype of all future women. Her story can be divided into three parts: Eve before the Fall, her role in the Fall, and Eve after the Fall.

1. **Eve before the Fall (Gen. 1:26–2:25).** Like Adam, Eve was created by God, made in his image, blessed by God, and (jointly with Adam) given responsibility to rule over the earth (Gen. 1:16-28; 5:1-2). These verses show the equality of the woman to the man, as confirmed elsewhere in Scripture (Gal.3:28; 1 Cor. 11:11-12; 1 Pet. 3:7). Genesis 2 includes additional details about the creation of Eve: Adam was created first (v. 7); Eve was created from Adam and for Adam as his companion (vv. 18-25). These facts indicate that God made the man to be the leader of the marriage relationship, and he gave the woman as a helper to the man (see 1 Cor. 11:3, 8-9; Eph. 5:22-33; 1 Tim. 2:12-13). There is tension between these twin truths of the woman's equality with the man and her role of submission to his leadership. These truths must be carefully balanced in our relationships both in the home and the church.
2. **Eve's role in the Fall (Gen. 3:1-7).** Satan's temptation came to Eve. The Bible emphasizes that she was *deceived* by the serpent (Gen. 3:13; 1 Tim. 2:14; 2 Cor. 11:3). Primary responsibility for the Fall is laid at Adam's feet, the head of the human family, for his disobedience to the command of God (Gen. 2:16-17; 3:11; Rom. 5:12-21; 1 Cor. 15:21-22). Eve, of course, bears full responsibility for her own sin and for offering the forbidden fruit to Adam.
3. **Eve after the Fall (Gen. 3:8–4:2, 25; 5:3-4).** Notice how sin negatively impacted Eve's relationship to God and to her husband (3:7-8, 12). She attempts to shift blame away from herself to the serpent (3:13). God's judgment falls on her in her roles as mother and wife (3:16). God graciously provides clothing for both Adam and Eve (3:21), a sign of the covering for sin that he would provide through the future offspring of the woman (3:15)—Jesus Christ. (By means of the virgin birth, the Savior of the world came through the woman only.) Eve was banished from the Garden of Eden, along with her husband (3:22-24). The rest of her story concerns the birth of her children: Cain (4:1), Abel (4:2), Seth (4:25), and other sons and daughters (5:4). Notice Eve's responses to the birth of Cain and Seth, indicating her continued relationship with God. Although the Bible does not

record her reaction to the murder of Abel (4:8), what anguish Eve must have felt at this grievous sin committed by her firstborn son!

**Lesson Helps:**

Two possible lesson aims:

1. My aim is to teach my students about the creation of Eve, so that they will seek to fulfill God's original design in their marriage relationship. This lesson focuses on Genesis 1 and 2, highlighting the unique creation of woman and her God-given purpose, especially in the marriage relationship. Although this ideal of the woman as equal helper to the man has been marred by the Fall (briefly sketch the story in Gen. 3), because of our redemption in Christ, two partners in a Christian marriage can approximate this original ideal in their relationship today. This emphasis would be fitting not only in adult classes but also in children's and youth classes to help our young people prepare for future marriage. Use New Testament references from the Background Helps above to aid you in your presentation. Be sure to incorporate this week's memory verse.
2. My aim is to teach my students about the temptation and fall of Eve into sin, so that they will resist Satan's temptations in their own lives. This lesson focuses on Genesis 3. Trace the steps by which Satan deceived Eve. How does the devil use similar techniques today? (See 2 Corinthians 11:1-4.) How did she react to being "found out" by God? How do we tend to shift blame in our lives today? What were the consequences of Eve's sin? What provision did God make for the forgiveness of her sin (and ours)? See Genesis 3:15 and Matthew 1:18-25.

**Assignment:**

-  Read about Sarah (Prominent Women of the Bible)
-  Memorize Genesis 18:14a.