

**QUESTION 14:**  
**DID GOD CREATE US UNABLE TO KEEP HIS LAW?**

**ANSWER :** NO, BUT BECAUSE OF THE DISOBEDIENCE OF OUR FIRST PARENTS, ADAM AND EVE, ALL OF CREATION IS FALLEN; WE ARE ALL BORN IN SIN AND GUILT, CORRUPT IN OUR NATURE AND UNABLE TO KEEP GOD'S LAW.

**50 minute Lesson Outline:**

- Catechism Recap (5 mins)
- Introduction to Question (5 mins)
- Teaching Outline (15 mins)
- Discussion and Question Time (20 mins)
- Virtue Vision (5 mins)

**Bible Passage:** Romans 5:12–21

**Memory Verse:** Rom. 5:12

**Big Idea:** God created Adam and Eve with the ability to perfectly keep his law. Sin now prevents the law from being kept,

**Aim:** To understand how sin entered the human race and to understand the contrast of being in Adam and being in Christ.

**Virtue:** Forgiveness

**LEADER'S NOTES:**

The question of how sin entered the world is a confusing one that we may struggle to understand. This lesson will enable us recognize that God originally created Adam and Eve with the ability to keep God's law perfectly. However, when Adam decided to reject God's rule in favor of self-rule, sin entered the human race. Since that time it has been passed from generation to generation. **We will learn that no human is able to keep God's law perfectly. This lesson aims to help us understand the difference between being in Adam and being in Jesus.**

**Things to remember:**

- This will be a difficult area for some people to understand. Endeavor to communicate as clearly as possible.
- Understand what it means to be unable to keep God's law, but be aware of those who are not Christians or who come from non-Christian homes.

**CATECHISM REVIEW OF LAST WEEK, Q13**

**Can anyone keep the law of God perfectly?**

**Answer : Since the fall, no mere human has been able to keep the law of God perfectly, but consistently breaks it in thought, word and deed.**

## INTRODUCTION TO QUESTION 13

**Word association game.** Say a word that is directly related to the previous word with no hesitation or repetition.

Adam

Eve

Sin

Good

Fall

Rejection

Rule

Serpent

Hopefully this game will bring out many words associated with the creation account and the subsequent entry of sin into the world. Introduce Question 14: "Did God create us unable to keep his law?" This lesson will help us consider whether God made humans powerless to obey his laws or if something else happened that affected humanity's ability to keep God's perfect law.

## TEACHING OUTLINE

### QUESTION 14: DID GOD CREATE US UNABLE TO KEEP HIS LAW?

#### READ: Romans 5:12–21

12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

13 for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law.

14 Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

*15 But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.*

*16 And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification.*

*17 For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.*

*18 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.*

*19 For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.*

*20 Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,*

*21 so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Paul is helping his readers and listeners understand just how bad the situation is for them! Paul clearly explains to them that everyone, both Jews (God's chosen people) and Gentiles, fail to live up to God's standard as revealed in his law—the Ten Commandments. Paul says that everyone is born sinful, and that means that no one can keep the law of God perfectly.*

When God created Adam and Eve, they were the high point of his creation. God walked with them in the garden of Eden, and they enjoyed his blessing. Adam and Eve were created with the ability to keep God's law perfectly. Recall what occurred when the Devil tempted Eve. Adam and Eve rejected God's rule and decided to disobey God.

In this part of the letter, Paul is explaining how sin infected the human race and how everyone since the time of Adam now is filled with sin.

Paul teaches the Romans three things in this passage:

1. Sin entered the human race through Adam.
2. Death came into the world because of Adam's sin.
3. The whole world is facing death because everybody is infected with sin.

Do you think God created humanity unable to keep his law? The answer is no!

God created humankind with the ability to keep God's law perfectly. That all changed, however, when Adam and Eve rejected God's rule, and sin entered the world.

**Ask** why people are now unable to keep God's law perfectly?

It is because everyone is born into Adam's race and so inherits the sin of Adam.

**Ask** what things do children inherit from their parents?

Hair and eye color? Height and shape? Because humanity descends directly from Adam, each person inherits his sin.

**Ask** if they know the hymn "And Can it Be." It was written by a man named Charles Wesley just after he became a Christian almost three hundred years ago. **Read** the third verse:

*He left his Father's throne above so free, so infinite his grace— Emptied himself of all but love, And bled for Adam's helpless race.*

**Ask** what they think Charles Wesley meant by the words "Adam's helpless race."

**Explain** that because humans are all infected with sin, we are unable to keep God's perfect law. We are helpless, unable to live according to God's rules and face punishment for that. Sin affects everyone's ability to love God with their heart, soul, and mind. Everyone is corrupted by sin and death. This includes you and I!

While sin entered the world through one man, salvation also entered the world through one man, and that man was Jesus Christ. Charles Wesley wrote that Jesus left heaven to come to earth because of his great love for Adam's helpless race. Adam's sin brought death, but Jesus's salvation brings life.

## **SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY**

Fill this page with as much information as you can recall about the creation of the first man and woman, Adam and Eve. Go back and read the creation account to inform your design. Reflect on what life may have been like at the beginning of creation. Once you've filled the page, write SIN in big block letters across the paper. This demonstrates how significantly sin affects God's world.

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

(Allow for several answers within your group before reading the provided response.)

- 1. Why did God allow Adam and Eve to sin?** God created Adam and Eve with a will that allowed them to sin. God knew that they would sin, but he permitted it. The fall is part of God's salvation plan.
- 2. By stopping Adam and Eve from sinning, could God have prevented Jesus's death?** Jesus's death was part of God's eternal plan of salvation, and remember that nothing takes God by surprise.
- 3. Isn't it unfair for us to inherit sin from Adam?** Life is not fair. If we insist upon fairness, we must recognize that it is also unfair for Christ's righteousness to be counted on our behalf. Rather than complain about the sinful nature we are born with, we should be grateful that God has provided a way to save us from it.

### Things to consider:

How would you explain what it is to be part of Adam's helpless race to a friend?

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Can you recognize the contrast between Adam and Jesus?

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## **VIRTUE VISION: Forgiveness**

Do you remember talking about forgiveness last week? Why should we be eager to forgive others?

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Who do you need to forgive today?

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### **MEMORY VERSE**

**Therefore, just as sin came into the world  
through one man, and death through sin, and so  
death spread to all men because all sinned.**

**Rom. 5:12**