Catechism Story 22 *The First and Second Articles of the Creed*
Memory Verse and Catechism Prayers from Congregation at Prayer

BIBLE STORY: THE CURSE OF THE FALL
Genesis 3:14-24

Central Thoughts

- God cursed the creation because of man's sin, so that we would see our need for our Savior, Jesus Christ (the Seed of the Woman).
- We were created to be fruitful and multiply, but now women will experience pain in childbirth and child rearing.
- We were created to have dominion over the creation, but now man's work will be hard and difficult until he returns to the dust of the ground in death.
- All the problems that have come into God's good creation are a result of man's sin and the Curse of the Fall: disease, earthquakes, drought, famine, pestilence, tornadoes, hurricanes, etc.
- The Lord made tunics of animal skins to cover Adam and Eve as a sign of how He would cover us with Jesus' forgiveness.
- In love the Lord drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden, so that we would one day be able to eat of the Tree of Life and live forever with Jesus because of His suffering and death for our sins upon the cross.

Discussion Questions

Who is the serpent?
Satan.
What had Satan done?
He entered into the creation in the form of a serpent to tempt Adam and Eve to sin and destroy their life with God in paradise.
How did God curse the serpent?
The Serpent was made to crawl on his belly.
Did God's curse of the serpent affect the rest of God's creation?
Yes, the whole creation suffers under the Curse of the Fall.
Why did God curse the creation?
To show us our sin and how much we are dependent upon God and need our Savior.
When God cursed the creation, was it an act of love or hate?
Love, like our fathers and mothers who punish and discipline us because they love us.
Who is the Seed of the Woman?
Jesus, the Son of God and the Virgin-born Son of Mary.
How would Jesus' crush the serpent's head?
He would die upon the cross for our sins.
What does the bruised heel of the Seed of the Woman signify?
Jesus' suffering and death upon the cross.
What did Jesus bear in His suffering and death upon the cross?
He bore all our sins and the death that we deserved for having eaten of the Tree of Knowledge. This is why Satan no longer has power or authority over us. Jesus redeemed (purchased and won) us from sin, death, and the power of the devil "with His holy precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death."
What was God's curse for the woman?
In pain she would bring forth children, she would desire her husband's place, and her husband would rule over her.
What had Adam done that brought about God's curse?
He had listened to the voice of his wife and eaten from the tree of which God had told him not to eat.
What was God's curse for the man?
His work would be hard and difficult until he would finally die and return to the dust from which he was made.
What do the thorns and thistles signify?
All of God's good creation would be affected by the Curse of the Fall: disease, earthquakes, drought, famine, pestilence, tornadoes, hurricanes, etc.
What did God make for Adam and Eve?
Tunics of animal skins to cover them.
What is this a sign of?

How God would cover our sins with Jesus' forgiveness.

What had Adam and Eve come to know and experience from the Fall into sin?

Both good and evil. They had experienced the goodness of God in their creation, and they came to know and experience the result of evil after eating of the Tree of Knowledge.

Why did God drive them out of the Garden of Eden?

So that they would not eat of the Tree of Life and be forever separated from God in eternal death.

What are cherubim?

Angels

How would man be able to eat of the Tree of Life again and live with God forever?

When Jesus suffered and died for the sins of the world and rose from the dead on the third day.

How do we eat of the fruit of the Tree of Life today?

Through Jesus' Word and His body and blood in the Lord's Supper we receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

Meditation on the Bible Story

God cursed the creation as a consequence for man's sin and rebellion against God. The curse of the fall affects us most deeply in how God created us in His image to be fruitful and to have dominion over the creation. The woman experiences great pain in childbirth and childrearing and the man experiences toil and sweat as he exercises dominion over the creation in his daily work. In love for us, God cursed the creation to show us our need for Christ and to prepare us to receive the message of the Gospel for our salvation. The whole creation looks forward to being delivered from the Curse of the Fall on the day of the resurrection of all flesh (Romans 8:18-23). Jesus crushed the devil's power over us, redeeming us from sin, death, and the Curse of the Fall "with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death." Paradise and life with God is restored in Jesus' resurrection from the dead. We "live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in [the] everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness" of Christ's death and resurrection for our sins. We can now eat of the true Tree of Life, our Lord Jesus Christ, when we hear His Word and partake of His body and blood in the Lord's Supper. Through these gifts He strengthens our faith and teaches us to look forward in hope to the new heavens and the new earth, where there will be no more sin or curse, in the resurrection on the last day.

Prayer on the Bible Story

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the Curse of the Fall, especially for the pain of having children and the toil of our daily work. Through the things that we suffer in this world, You teach us that we are sinners who need Your Son for our salvation. Forgive us our sins for Jesus' sake, and comfort us under the curse of the fall with the blessed hope of the resurrection of the body to everlasting life. In Jesus' name. Amen.



The Curse of the Fall

Genesis 3:16-24