# Cursed to Bless

# People Sin and God Curses People

Episode: 2

Passage: Genesis 3

Characters: - Host - Sam - Pastor - Ben - Pete - Ruth - Kate - Employee # full\_only - Boss # full\_only

Authors: - Martin Olmos - Richard Utber

Language: en-AU

### Intro

**ATMOS**: Theme music 5 sec, Host background music below host’s volume

**HOST**: Hello, this is Mary, your host. Welcome to Cursed to Bless, the show that asks a big question: Why is life so hard, when God is so good? We hear God blesses us, but how? Money, health, happiness? The answers are found in *Jesus*, in who he is and what he’s done. We see this when we read the Bible as *one big story*, with Jesus as the hero from start to finish.

**HOST**: In this episode, we learn that our disobedience against God was a terrible act of rebellion and unbelief, which brought God’s curse upon us.

**HOST**: Remember to pause, read the passage, and answer the questions when you hear the sound. Our first question is: Has someone ever lied and tricked you? What did you lose? Discuss now.

**FX**: Pause prompt, then 5 seconds silence

**HOST**: Thank you.

### Bible Study

**FX**: Flasback Outro

**ATMOS**: Host background

**HOST**: Listeners, let’s listen to the friends’ Bible study. They were all sitting at Pastor’s house…

**FX**: Flashback Intro.

**ATMOS**: House living room

**PASTOR**: Welcome everyone. Let’s start by praying: “Dear Father please help us listen carefully to your Word now, and learn together. In Jesus name …”

**ALL**: Amen.

**PASTOR**: Let’s review our memory verse from last time: Revelation chapter 4, verse 11. I will read it out loud. When I pause, say the word that comes next, without looking at your Bible:

**FX**: In each ‘…’ gap below, Response prompt, then 2 seconds silence

**PASTOR**: (Leave a 2 second pause where you see ‘…’ and say the answer word with emphasis.)
“You are … *worthy*, our Lord and God, to receive … *glory* and … *honor* and … *power*, for you … *created* all things, and by your … *will* they were created and have their being.”

**TRANSLATOR**: Replace this with text from the local Bible translation. Pick the same significant words for the gaps, as much as possible.

**PASTOR**: Today, we’re reading Genesis chapter 3. Let’s read it together now.

**FX**: Pause prompt, then 5 seconds silence

**FX**: Flashback Outro

**ATMOS**: Host background

**HOST**: Listeners, it’s your host. Please pause the audio and read the passage now.

**FX**: Flashback Intro.

**PASTOR**: Thank you. Ruth, what are the main ideas in this passage?

**RUTH**: Well, the devil tricks Adam and Eve. They disobey God, and he kicks them out of the garden.

**PETE**: But they weren’t allowed to eat from the special tree. Maybe they’re better off on their own – without any rules to worry about. Maybe the garden wasn’t *that* good.

**BEN**: I think they rebelled because they didn’t believe God. It’s not just wrong, it’s stupid as well. They lived such a blessed life! No wonder they hid from God, they must have felt so ashamed to do something so ugly.

**KATE**: Yes, the devil tricks them.

**BEN**: He lies to Adam and Eve, makes them doubt God. They listen to his words instead of God’s, even when God was so kind to them. They had it so good!

**PASTOR**: They didn’t trust God’s word, and their rebellion turned everything upside down.

**SAM**: What do you mean?

**PASTOR**: Think - who is the boss with the powerful word at the start?

**SAM**: God. He made everything by his word.

**PASTOR**: Yes! And he puts Adam and Eve in charge of creation. So it’s God first, people second, the world third. And everything is good – *very* good.

**PETE**: But it doesn’t stay that way!

**PASTOR**: No. By listening to the snake’s words, they make *it* their boss. And worse, by disobeying God, they put themselves *above* God – like they know what’s good and bad better than him!

**RUTH**: So it’s all upside down! Snake first, then people, then God.

**SAM**: Oh, I see…

**PASTOR**: Yes. But that’s not the way the world is. God is the Creator and the boss. He won’t put up with their rebellion. He now speak curses instead of blessing.

**RUTH**: And so Adam and Eve are put out of God’s good garden.

**PETE**: And that’s the end of the good life for us …

**KATE**: It’s really messed up. Everyone trying to get what they want, always fighting each other.

**PETE**: I think God wants to see us work hard at fixing ourselves up before he’ll let us back in.

**RUTH**: Really? Do you think we could make ourselves good enough for God?

**SAM**: I don’t like our chances of that. But God’s not going to put up with our disobedience either. What hope do we have?

**PASTOR**: Only the hope that God gives us. He’s the only one who can give us a way back in. You know, I see a little hope in the curse God speaks to the snake. A promise of salvation in the middle of the judgement.

**SAM**: What is it?

**PASTOR**: Look at chapter 3, verse 15. God says that a son of Eve will one day crush the head of the serpent. Who do you think that is?

**PETE**: Maybe Samson? I saw a movie about him, and he looked really strong. Big muscles! He killed a lion, so a snake would be easy!

**PASTOR**: Pete, that sounds like a fun movie, but movies can give us a different picture than the Bible. we need to look at the *Bible* for God’s answers, not movies.

**PETE**: But his muscles were huge pastor!

**PASTOR**: (Chuckling)
OK, OK Pete!

### Questions to Pastor and Application

**PASTOR**: OK, what questions would *you* like to ask?

**BEN**: Pastor, how does Genesis chapter 3 fit in with what we learned last week?

**PASTOR**: Thanks! It’s always good to think how a passage or part of the Bible fits into its context. Last week we learned that God is our supremely powerful and good Creator and Ruler, who has blessed us abundantly. But in this passage, we find out how God’s good world became full of suffering and death.

**PETE**: Why did God put a tree in the garden, and then forbid Adam and Eve from eating from it?

**PASTOR**: To make it clear that only God is God! Only God knows perfectly what is right and wrong, good and bad. That is why it is called “The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil”. Adam and Eve couldn’t know everything, they needed to trust God.

**SAM**: Pastor, God’s curse seems very harsh. I know that Adam and Eve shouldn’t have eaten the fruit, but was it really that bad?

**PASTOR**: Yes it was - worse than we can imagine! God blessed them, and only gave them one command. Yet they chose to believe Satan, who deceived them, instead of God, who is so kind and wise. It was a terrible act of rebellion! And that’s what we all do too. We don’t trust that God knows best. We rebel against him and live our lives our own way.

**RUTH**: Dad, today we are still outside the garden, in a world full of suffering and death. Can we fix ourselves up and get back into the garden?

**PASTOR**: No, the Bible makes this clear. Isaiah chapter 53, verse six says “We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way.” Jeremiah chapter 17, verse nine says, “The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.” All through the Bible we see that even the best people are sinners. It is impossible for us to fix ourselves up.

**KATE**: So how can we go back to being blessed by God? You said God would provide a way back - you mentioned verse 15. Who crushes the head of the serpent?

**PASTOR:** Ahh Kate, that’s what the rest of the Bible is about: God makes a way back to him. Verse 15 is just the first clue of the hero in the Bible’s big story.

**BEN**: Well, the biggest hero in the Bible is Jesus…

**PASTOR**: Yes! Remember I said that the Bible has Jesus as the hero from start to finish? This verse at the beginning of the Bible is really about Jesus! He is the one who will crush Satan and restore our relationship with God!

**BEN**: That will be wonderful! That must be the greatest blessing!

**PASTOR**: OK, let’s talk about our own lives now. What upsets you most about our fallen world?

**KATE**: I hate seeing sick children not being cared for. I wonder why they have to suffer for the decisions of adults.

**PETE**: I remember when someone stole my first bicycle. I was so angry! It was really unfair. I wanted God to curse whoever took it from me.

**BEN**: But I guess they *are* under God’s curse, Pete. Just like the rest of us. Even you!

**PETE**: (Shocked, indignant)
Me?! I’ve never stolen a bicycle in my life!

**SAM**: Someone took my snacks from the kitchen last night ….

**PETE**: Hey, what are you saying? Maybe you just forgot where you put them.

**PASTOR**: Pete, I’m afraid Ben is right. We’re all cursed because we all sin - one way or another.

**PETE**: Well, I don’t get how that works. I’ve seen people thrown into prison unfairly and rot in there for a long time. God didn’t seem to care much. Anyway, Sam’s snacks taste awful.

**RUTH**: I know I fall very short of God’s glory. I feel it. I’m very thankful for Jesus, he’s my only chance to come close to our holy God.

**SAM**: I hate death. I had to go to my uncle’s funeral when I was little. He was lots of fun, he would play with me. Then one day he was gone.

**PASTOR**: Thank you everyone. Let’s read our memory verse on the whiteboard: Romans chapter six, verse 23. Let’s read it together now.

**ALL**: “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

**PASTOR**: Let’s memorise that for our next lesson. Let me pray. Good Father, we are sorry for the many ways we rebel against you, just like Adam and Eve. We deserve your curse, and we know we don’t deserve to be your people. We feel the pain of this hard life, full of suffering and death. Thank you for sending Jesus into our world to remove the curse and restore your blessings to us. In Jesus’ name…

**ALL**: Amen.

**PASTOR**: Thank you everyone, see you next time.

**ALL**: Goodbye pastor.

### Interactive Questions

**FX**: Flashback outro

**HOST**: Listeners, let’s answer some questions now. Say your answer aloud.

**HOST**: Why is the world under a curse? Is it because *the devil overpowered God*, or *we disobeyed God*, or *God has left us*?

**FX**: Response prompt, then 2 seconds silence

**HOST**: We disobeyed God. The world is under a curse because we’ve disobeyed God.

**HOST**: I will say some sentences. For each sentence, say ‘True’ if you agree, or ‘False’ if you disagree.

**HOST**: True or False: God has abandoned the world after his curse.

**FX**: Response prompt, then 2 seconds silence

**HOST**: False. Our world *is* cursed because of sin, but God has *not* abandoned us.

**HOST**: True or False: God promises Adam and Eve a saviour who will remove the curse.

**FX**: Response prompt, then 2 seconds silence

**HOST**: True. In Genesis chapter three, verse 15, God promises one of Eve’s children will crush the serpent.

**HOST**: True or False. Because of our rebellion, we are no longer God’s *people*, in God’s *place* enjoying the *blessings* of God’s *rule*.

**FX**: Response prompt, then 2 seconds silence

**HOST**: True. This world is not the Kingdom of God.

**HOST**: Here’s another question. Who removes the curse, as promised in Genesis chapter three, verse 15? Is it *Abraham*, *Jesus*, or *Moses*?

**FX**: Response prompt, then 2 seconds silence

**HOST**: Jesus. Jesus is the man who removes the curse and restores his blessings to us.

**HOST**: Discuss this question: What should Adam and Eve have said to the serpent?

**FX**: Pause prompt, then 5 seconds silence

### Outro

**FX**: Flashback outro

**HOST**: Listeners, now we’ve heard about Sam’s day, listen to what he prayed before going to sleep…

**ATMOS**: Soft prayer background effect (e.g. chimes) fade in

**SAM**: Dear God, I’m starting to see how much I disobey you - and how little I can fix myself. No wonder the world is so messed up.Please help me know you better, to love and obey you. Please turn these curses into blessings. Amen.

**ATMOS**: Prayer background fade out

**HOST**: Thank you for completing this lesson. We learnt that our disobedience against God was a terrible act of rebellion and unbelief, which brought God’s curse upon us. Will you join me for our next lesson? We will learn that God promises Abraham to bring blessing to the world again through him. Please read Genesis chapter 12 before then. Now you can discuss how this lesson matters in your life: When do you grieve most over our fallen world? Goodbye.

**FX**: Theme music fade out.