

# 1 Adam & Eve

## Living with a Perfect Father

### Bible Study

Read Genesis 2:4-3:24  
and then read the following:

*As Joe sat in the empty and lonely room of his prison cell, he held his head in his hands and sobbed. Things became clear to him for the first time in years. Joe was 22 years old and had been in trouble ever since his sophomore year in high school.*

*Joe had had a good childhood and loving parents. They certainly were not perfect, but he could always count on them to be there for him.*

*Ever since he could remember, they had provided for his every need. They showed their love for him openly and often. They had always included him in the family activities and chores, making him feel responsible and important.*

*But there was something that he began to hate about them when he turned 16. He hated the rules and the limits his parents had set for him. This attitude was encouraged by a new group of friends he began to hang out with. Out of five boys, he was the only one of the bunch who had parents who were still married. All of them struggled with serious problems at home.*

*The others' spite and bitterness toward their own parents and rebelliousness against rules that restricted their behavior in any way rubbed off on Joe. They openly resisted their parents and led their lives without much of a relationship to them. Joe, too, became resentful toward his parents' rules. He began to think that he was old enough to take care of himself.*

*Now, as he sat in prison, he realized how wrong he had been. He began to feel regret for how he had treated his father and mother. He finally saw that the rules and limits his parents had set for him were for his own good. As he had just proved, he could not survive without them.*

*The awesome thing of it all was that after he was arrested on drug charges and landed in jail, his parents came to see him immediately. They didn't lecture him. They didn't yell at him. They respected his right, at age 22, to make his own decisions - no matter how unwise they might be. Instead, they gave him love and support. It was too much for Joe to comprehend. He did not deserve such treatment. He was unworthy of such love.*

*Adam and Eve had a perfect parent. God did all the right things to insure that His children were protected and provided for. He found them a safe place to live in the garden. He gave them responsibilities and tasks (care of the garden). God also gave them a rule which limited their behavior ("Do not eat of the tree"). This rule was for their own good.*

*Adam and Eve, however, broke the rule. As a loving parent, God had to discipline them because disobedience always has consequences. Yet, even after they had rebelled against Him, God still loved them and provided for them. Before He kicked them out of the garden, He made clothes for them.*

*We, too, have a loving heavenly Father. He is always there for us. He provides us with all of the things we need for life. He gives us responsibilities*

*and tasks (to take care of each other and to serve Him). He also sets limits and rules, such as the Ten Commandments. These are given to protect us. God also disciplines us when we sin. In fact, because we have failed to listen to Him, our relationship is affected. Yet, He loves us even when we fail. When we were rebels and sinners, He sent Jesus to die for us. This is a Father worth loving, worth serving. "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name."*

## Discussion:

1. Why is it loving for earthly parents, as well as for our Heavenly Father, to set rules and limits for their children? What would happen if there were no rules or consequences?
2. When should we not compare our heavenly Father with our earthly parents?
3. Do you think that knowing that we have a powerful, loving, and perfect heavenly Father should make a difference in a Christian's life? What difference should it make?

## PRAYER:

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for being a loving, patient parent. Thank you for always being there for us. Thank you for rules that protect us. Thank you for loving us even when we do bad things. Forgive us for not always listening. Forgive us for not being grateful. Help us to change. Help us be faithful children who please You by our lives. In Jesus' name. AMEN.