

# GARDEN TO GARDEN

## Lesson 1

### I. **The Bible is Divine Revelation About God:** Genesis 1:1-3; 2 Peter 1:20-21

The Bible is not an end in itself, but a means to bring men to an intimate and satisfying knowledge of God, that they may enter into Him, that they may delight in His Presence, may taste and know the inner sweetness of the very God Himself in the core and center of their hearts. – A. W. Tozer

God the Father is the giver of Holy Scripture; God the Son is the theme of Holy Scripture; and God the Spirit is the author, authenticator, and interpreter of Holy Scripture. – J.I. Packer

### II. **The Bible Reveals the Redemption Story in Four Parts:** *Eden, Exile, Emmanuel, Eternity*

One **evidence that the Bible is truly God's Word** is seen in its unity. Even though it is really sixty-six individual books, written on three continents, in three different languages, over a period of approximately 1500 years, by more than 40 authors who came from many walks of life, the Bible remains one unified book from beginning to end without contradiction. This unity is unique from all other books and is evidence of the divine origin of the words which God moved men to record.



### III. **The Bible Reveals Humanity Designed by God and For Relationship with God**

**Shalom:** is a Hebrew noun that refers to the wholeness, perfection, prosperity, and peace of God's creation. When He created the world, He webbed all things together with Him in perfect harmony, delight and peace. Genesis says that God walked in the Garden of Eden during the cool of day.

### IV. **The Bible Reveals What Vandalized Our World:** Genesis 2:2-9; Genesis 3

With the fall, shalom was vandalized and perverted. Adam and Eve broke the natural order of placing God first when they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Sin, pain and selfishness have taken over God's creation; natural disasters plague the world and creation no longer has direct communication with God. After the fall, when Adam and Eve heard God walking in the garden, they no longer walked with Him. Instead, they hid from Him in their shame.

"Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee." — **Augustine of Hippo, Confessions**

## V. The Bible Reveals the Way Back to the Tree of Life

**Access Denied**     Genesis 3:22-24

**Access Offered**     John 14:6; John 3:16; Romans 6:23

“When man lost the way to the tree of life, he lost his way back into God’s presence. Although God provided alternative, partial ways back—through sacrifice, prayer, and especially through the tabernacle and temple—the way was never completely restored, because man was not yet fit to enter God’s presence as he was in the beginning. Only in Christ, the final and perfect Way, could man—any man, any woman—go all the way back to God and stand in God’s presence. By His atonement, Christ, the way, makes us fit for God and brings us as near to God as He is Himself.”  
- Josh Jensen

**Access Regained**     Revelation 2:7; Revelation 22:1-22

“In Eden, the tree of life appears to have been a source of ongoing physical life. The presence of the tree of life suggests a supernatural provision of life as Adam and Eve ate the fruit their Creator provided. Adam and Eve were designed to live forever, but to do so they likely needed to eat from the tree of life. Once they sinned, they were banned from the Garden, separated from the tree, and subject to physical death, just as they had experienced spiritual death. Since Eden, death has reigned throughout history. But on the New Earth, our access to the tree of life is forever restored.” - Randy Alcorn, Heaven

“In Revelation 21-22, the Apostle John gives us a striking picture of the final destination of humanity, describing a new Jerusalem on a new earth, a place where all of God’s people will live. And at the center of the city, the tree of life will straddle the city’s great river. The tree represents the overturning of the Genesis 3 curse.” - Tobin Perry

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### Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Take a few minutes for everyone in the group to introduce themselves.
2. Icebreaker question: *If you could live in any country besides the United States, which country would you pick?*
3. Icebreaker question: *Do you prefer movies or books? What is your favorite movie? Why?*
4. Read the **“Introduction” to Garden to Garden** on page ix.  
*What do you hope to get out of this study?*
5. What impacted or challenged you from today’s teaching lesson?
6. Read the **“Author’s Note” on page xiii-xiv** and discuss how to do the homework.  
Complete **Days 1-5** before the next study. Read the Cultivate scripture passages for each day + the Flourish devotional + answer Harvest questions in a journal.
7. Close in Prayer