

# God's Story

## The perfect beginning

- God created the world and the first humans: Adam and Eve (Hawa)
- He put them into a paradise: the Garden of Eden. They had great freedom to eat fruit from any tree – except for the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God warned them: “When you eat from it you'll die!”
- Everything was perfect: no death, no shame, they would live eternally

## Sin and shame came into the world

- Satan came to Eve and tempted her → she and Adam ate the forbidden fruit
- Immediately they were afraid and felt shame because they realized they were naked
- → they covered themselves with leaves and hid from God
- God punished them for disobedience: threw them out of paradise, not eternal life anymore
- *Interesting*: Adam and Eve did just one “small” sin → result: big judgment and death and a broken relationship with God
- Probably they were good people, lots of good deeds, but this cannot outweigh their sin

## A covering for sin and shame: new clothes and promised savior

- God still loved them and did something very *interesting*: He changed their clothes (leaves) and gave them clothes from animal skin
- An animal had to die to cover the sin and shame of Adam and Eve
- God gave this first sacrifice. Later other prophets offered sacrifices: Cain and Abel, Noah (Nuh), Abraham (Ibrahim), Moses (Musa), David (Dawud), ...
- God judged Satan as well: Promise that from the woman's descendents there will be a savior who defeat Satan
- Other prophets foretold the coming of a Saviour who would take away the sins of the world

## Jesus, the Messiah (Isa Masih)

- Jesus is called Word of God (Kalimatullah), born by virgin Mary (Meryem)
- Loved people, never sinned, never killed anyone, never gathered riches
- Great miracles: healed the sick, cast out demons, raised the dead
- *Interesting*: As Jesus was not yet old he began prophesying: “I must die, but I will rise again.”
- Prophet John (Yahya) saw him and said: “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” – *That is interesting, isn't it?* A lamb is used as sacrifice

## The sacrifice for us

- Jesus did not resist the Jews and Romans and was killed: He is God's sacrifice to pay for my and your sins
- As he was dying: he cried out, “It is finished” → sin debt is paid off now
- God raised him three days later just as he promised → many saw him and later he was taken up to heaven; one day he'll return to judge all mankind
- When we believe that Jesus has paid for our sins through his sacrifice and that God raised him from the dead, our sins will be forgiven.
- *That is how our sins can be forgiven and we can begin a relationship with God*

## The Holy Spirit

- Earlier only very few people (Moses, David, Jesus, ...) had the Holy Spirit: direct communication with God, they could do miracles
- But now God wants to give this present to everybody who wants it
- Out of ourselves we can't do all what God wants, we fail again and again
- The Holy Spirit is like “God's power” and helps us: Teaching us God's will, helping us to be good people and to resist the devil

## That is interesting, isn't it?

- Adam and Eve were given the death penalty even though they only committed one sin.
- God changed their clothes (sacrifice)
- Jesus was called "The Lamb of God."
- Jesus prophesied his own death.

### How to pray to accept Jesus as Savior:

- God I come to you. Jesus, I believe in you and I come to you.
- I realize that I didn't live according to your will and I repent. Please forgive me.
- Jesus, I thank you that you sacrificed yourself for me. I accept you as sacrifice, Savior and Lord.
- I give my life to you. Fill me with your Holy Spirit and help me to live like you want.

### My answer to God's offer

God has done his part. Now it's your turn...

Did I accept his offer?

Yes    No

Am I sure that I received eternal life?

Yes    No

Am I sure that I received the Holy Spirit?

Yes    No

### *My spiritual birth certificate:*

On \_\_\_\_\_ (date) I said Yes to God's offer in Jesus. I accepted Jesus as Savior and as sacrifice so that my sins are forgiven. I gave my life to him, received the Holy Spirit and started to live like he wants.