

Bible Passage: Genesis 3

Key Passage: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23

Big Picture Question: What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands.

LEADER DEVOTIONAL

Does the story of the fall surprise you? How could Adam and Eve—who had everything they needed—rebel against a loving God? Do you think you would have acted differently?

Adam and Eve’s story is our story. Think about the last time you blatantly sinned. What lies were you believing in that moment? Satan wants us to believe the same lie that Eve believed: *Maybe God is holding out on me. Maybe He isn’t good or loving. Maybe I would do a better job than Him.* Do you ever wonder if you know better than God?

Before the fall, Adam and Eve enjoyed a loving, two-way relationship with God. The garden was a true paradise. God filled the garden with good gifts so that they might enjoy them and give Him thanks. This glorifies God. All of that changed when Adam and Eve gave in to the serpent’s temptation.

Adam and Eve desired something more: the wisdom the fruit offered. But when their eyes were opened, they didn’t get what they hoped for. Instead, they were aware of their nakedness. They felt ashamed. Surely the Lord’s heart broke at their act of disobedience and rebellion. Can you think of a time your own sin produced regret and sorrow?

Because of their sin, God cast Adam and Eve out of the garden. Though they did not die right away, sin’s effect was immediate and thorough. Their lives and their children’s lives—and the lives of all of humanity—would be forever affected by their choice. We see this in the world around us. We experience God’s grace, but we are very aware that the world is broken. It was not meant to be this way.

Sin is a big problem that needs a big solution. At just the right time, God sent His Son into the world, born as a baby. Matthew 1:21 says, “You are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

As the kids you teach become increasingly aware of the bad news—that we are all sinners from birth—rejoice with them over the good news: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1 Tim. 1:15).

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WELCOME

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, ask kids about their week, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY: *Think about a time when you have disobeyed your parents. What did your parents tell you to do? What did you do instead? Did your parents find out that you disobeyed? What were the consequences?*

ACTIVITY PAGE

Invite kids to complete the “Thorns and Thistles” activity page.

SAY *When Adam and Eve sinned, God led them out of the garden. God told them that life would be hard, the ground would be difficult to work, and bad things would happen, all because of sin.*

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Use the provided index cards with passage written on them. Hide the index cards around the room. Invite the kids to find the words and put them in the correct order. Read the key passage aloud several times. Continue playing as time allows. Then show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read the passage together.

SAY *Romans 3:23 says that every person who has ever been born since Adam and Eve has sin in their hearts. We all need a Savior to rescue us from our sin. God sent Jesus to be our Rescuer. Jesus lived the perfect life that we could not. He died on the cross to pay for our sin, and rose again on the third day. His resurrection defeated sin and death forever. When you have faith in Jesus, God forgives your sin, adopts you into His family, and gives you eternal life.*

SESSION STARTER

Good Fruit vs. Bad Fruit

Give each kid a sheet of paper and access to markers, colored pencils, or crayons. Instruct the kids to draw a picture of their favorite fruit, and a picture of a fruit they don’t like.

SAY *You may like some fruit and really dislike other fruit. In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve had their pick of every fruit in the garden except one, and they still ate the wrong one. We will learn more about why the fruit they ate was off limits, and what happened when they chose to disobey God.*

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BIBLE LESSON

Sin Entered the World

God gave the first two people a beautiful garden to call home. He gave them everything they needed, and He gave them a command. God said, “You may eat from any of the trees in the garden, except for one.” The garden had a tree in it called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God warned the man, “If you eat from that tree, you will die.”

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the animals. One day, the serpent went to the woman. “Did God really say, ‘You can’t eat from any tree in the garden?’” he asked.

The woman answered, “We can eat the fruit from the trees in the garden, but God told us not to eat from the tree in the middle of the garden. He said if we eat the fruit or touch it, we will die.”

“No! You will not die,” the serpent lied. “You will be like God, knowing good and evil.” The woman looked at the fruit. It did look delicious, and she wanted to be wise. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then their eyes were opened, and they knew they were naked. So they sewed together fig leaves and made clothes for themselves. That evening, the man and his wife heard God walking in the garden. They hid among the trees. God called out to the man, “Where are you?”

The man said, “I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.”

“Who told you that you were naked?” God asked. “Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

The man blamed his wife. “She gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it,” he said. The woman blamed the serpent. “He tricked me,” she said.

God said bad things would happen. Life would be hard and painful, all because of sin. But God promised that one of the woman’s descendants would destroy the serpent. God made those first people—Adam and Eve—clothes out of animal skins and sent them out of the garden. God put angels and a sword of fire at the entrance of the garden to guard the way to the tree of life

Christ Connection: Ever since Adam and Eve sinned, all people have been sinners. Our sin separates us from God, but God still loves us. God promised a Rescuer would come from Eve’s family. God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue people from sin and bring them back to God.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Small Group ACTIVITIES



Say • Raise your hand if you had heard this Bible story before today.

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Genesis 3:1-24. Explain that Genesis is the first book of the Bible and is part of the Old Testament. Help kids distinguish between the large bold chapter numbers and the small verse numbers.

Choose a volunteer to read aloud Genesis 3:1-24. If your group is still learning to read, consider reading the passage for them.

SAY *This story of sin comes very close to the beginning of the Bible. This story of how sin entered the world is important to how the rest of the Bible unfolds. Every story after Genesis 3 includes the problem of sin. Every story in the Old Testament is waiting for a Savior, a Rescuer, from this terrible problem of sin. The Bible isn't just the greatest story ever told, it's a true story. God created people, people sinned against God, God sent a Rescuer to save His people, and God restored His relationship to His people.*

Ask the following questions. Lead the kids to discuss their answers.

SAY *What was the serpent's end goal?*

Help kids to see past Eve eating a piece of fruit. Help kids to understand that Satan has an end goal: to get us to disobey, disbelieve, and distrust God's perfect plan and commands. Read John 10:10, “The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy.” Help them consider how Satan might be tempting us today.

SAY *Why did Adam and Eve suddenly feel ashamed?*

Guide the kids to see that in Genesis 1-2, Adam and Eve felt no shame and were naked in the garden. Remind the kids that the forbidden fruit came from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Before eating the fruit, Adam and Eve were innocent and didn't know right from wrong. By choosing to disobey God, they were guilty and suddenly aware of their guilt. They felt shame because they gained the burden of knowing what evil is. Shame is a consequence of sin, but that even in that shame and sin, God still loves us.

SAY *Why did Adam and Eve have to leave the garden?*

Help the kids understand that sin always has consequences. Sin separates us from God. Help the kids discuss the only way to God is through His Son, Jesus Christ. Explain that Jesus' death on the cross paid the penalty for sin that we owe. His death took the place of our deaths. Read 1 John 1:9, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” Help the kids understand that if we confess our sins and believe in Jesus, we will be saved.

SAY *Today we started an incredible journey through the Bible. The very first story in the Bible teaches us that God created everything by speaking. Everything God created was good because God is good. **Why did God create everything? God created everything for His glory and our good.***

PRAYER TIME

Lead the kids in a time of guided prayer. Remind them that they do not have to pray aloud if they feel uncomfortable doing so. Encourage them to pray about more than just things they want, but also to pray as a way to praise God and thank Him.

Take prayer requests and pray for your group.