

Bible Passage: Genesis 3

CHRIST CONNECTION: Everything was different after Adam and Eve sinned. Since then, all people have been sinners. Sin keeps us from God, but God never stops loving us. He sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue people from sin and bring them back to God.

Key Passage: “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 go 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 preschoolers 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

Play music in the background as you greet preschoolers and welcome them to class. As children enter, have them decorate a paper bag. They will place their crafts, coloring pages, and activity pages, in the bag for easy transportation home. After children are finished decorating their bags, line them up outside the classroom along the wall for easy distribution and pick-up.

*** Please remember to reference the class schedules posted in your room for the timing of your class's various activities.

ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead preschoolers to complete “Find the Fruit” on the activity page.

Say: You circled the fruit that was different from the others in each row. When God made the first people, Adam and Eve, He put them in a garden and gave them food to eat. God said they could eat fruit from any of the trees in the garden, except for one. We will find out in today's Bible story if Adam and Eve obeyed God.

BIBLE STORY

***Three-year-old classes will line up and march to 3B at 9:40/11:10.

***Four-year-old classes will line up and march to 4B at 9:25/11:00.

SIN ENTERED THE WORLD

Adam and Eve—the two first people—lived in God's beautiful garden. God put trees in the garden with fruit that they could eat, and he gave them one rule. God said, “you may eat from any tree in the garden, except for one. Do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat from that tree, you will die.”

One day, the serpent spoke to Eve. Out of all the animals on the earth, the serpent was very sneaky. The serpent asked, “Did God really say not to eat from any tree in the garden?”

Eve said, “No, we can eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. God said not to eat from the tree in the middle of the garden. God said that if we eat from that tree or touch it, we will die.”

“You will not die,” said the serpent. “You will be like God and know good and evil.”

Eve looked at the fruit. It did look yummy, and she wanted to be like God. So Eve ate the fruit. She gave some to Adam, who was with her, and he ate it too. Then their eyes were opened, and they knew they were naked. They made clothes for themselves out of fig leaves.

That evening, Adam and Eve heard God walking in the garden, so they hid. God called to Adam, “Where are you?”

Adam said, “I was afraid, so I hid.”

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

Adam said, “Eve gave me some fruit, and I ate it.”

Eve said, “The serpent tricked me.”

Adam and Eve had disobeyed God. That is called sin. God said that because of their sin, bad things would happen. Life would be hard. But God promised that someone would come from Eve's family to get rid of the serpent.

God made Adam and Eve clothes out of animal skins and sent them out of the garden.

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CRAFT

HOLD UP HANDS AND HEARTS

Fold a sheet of construction paper in half for each preschooler. Use a pencil to draw half a heart on each child’s folded paper so that when they cut along the line then open their papers, they have a full heart. When children complete their hearts, help them trace one of their hands on the heart cutout. Encourage preschoolers to decorate their papers until everyone is finished. Guide the group to stand in a circle with their completed heart hands. Lead them to hold up their hearts and say together, “Sin keeps me from God, but God never stops loving me!” Repeat several times.

Say • Everything was different after Adam and Eve sinned. Since then, all people have been sinners. We sin in our hearts, and then we sin with our hands. Sin keeps us from God, but God never stops loving us. He sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue people from sin and bring them back to God. Put this heart somewhere at home where you will see it. Let it remind you to ask God to help you obey Him, but even more importantly to help you keep going to Him when you disobey. Say □ *Can you point on your picture to something God made? Yes, because God made everything! Everything was made to show how good God is.*

GAME

PLAY “HOT FRUIT”

Form a circle on the floor. Give one child in the circle a beanbag. Explain that you will play a game similar to “Hot Potato,” but instead of calling the beanbag a *potato*, you will call it a *fruit*. Play music as preschoolers pass the beanbag around the circle. Stop the music at random. The child holding the beanbag when the music stops must sit in the middle of the circle for the next round. Consider using a piece of plastic fruit instead of a beanbag, if available. Play as time allows.

Say: You had to make sure you weren’t touching the fruit when the music stopped. Eve told the serpent that God had said if they even touched the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they would die. But that was not what God said. He said not to eat fruit from the tree. Do you think the serpent didn’t know what God had said when he asked Eve, “Did God really say not to eat from any tree in the garden?” [Allow responses.] Of course, he did! He wanted to trick Eve by twisting God’s words. Knowing what God says in the Bible helps us live the good life God wants for us. The good news that Jesus came to rescue us from sin is in the Bible. Let’s make sure we know God’s Word!

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SNACK AND PRAYER

Take a restroom break and wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Choose volunteers to help set up for the snack. (Crackers and cups for water located in the cabinet above the sink.) Pray and thank God for the snack.

As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story.

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

Say: What was your favorite part of today’s Bible story?

Say: What did you learn about God in today’s Bible story?

Say: Why do you think Adam and Eve hid when they heard God walking through the garden?

Say: What does it mean to sin? To sin is to go against God and His commands.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Before doing closing activities, please have the children help you clean up the toys and materials that have been used today. After the room is cleaned up, set out markers or crayons and let kids work on today’s **Bible Story Coloring Page** until their parents arrive. You can also choose a book to read to the children as they color or for those who don’t want to color. Please make the effort to have the children quietly engaged when parents arrive.

When parents arrive to pick up their children, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well today.

BEFORE YOU GO...

Please clean up by doing the following:

- 1) Put away any remaining toys.
- 2) Use sanitizing spray to wipe down tables.
- 3) Sweep up any cracker crumbs or dirt.
- 4) Please return your bin, binder, and sign-in clipboard to the resource room across from Toddler A.