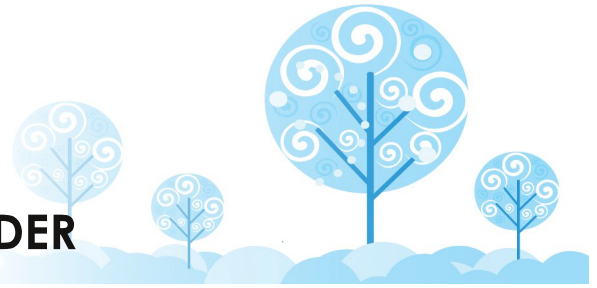


LESSON 3

THE FIRST SIN AND THE FIRST MURDER



OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the origin of sin.
2. To learn that we have to face the consequences when we make the wrong decision.
3. To learn ways to avoid the temptation of sin.

MEMORY VERSE

"Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams."

(1 Samuel 15:22b)

PRAYER

1. Thank God for guiding us through the past week and for allowing us to come and learn more about His words.
2. Ask God to guide us as we learn about the origin and consequences of sin.
3. Ask God for wisdom and strength to help us make the right decisions in our lives.



Overview

1. The First Sin

- The first consequence: hidden from the face of God
- The second consequence: punishment
- The third and fourth consequence: banishment from the garden, and sin brought into this world.

2. The First Murder

3. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—Salvation is given by grace through faith. It is still necessary to rely on the Holy Spirit to pursue holiness and to keep the biblical teachings of honoring God and loving humanity.

4. Life Application

- Steps to Avoid Temptation
- Don't Give In to Temptation

5. Activity

- The Candy
- Overcoming Disobedience



Background Knowledge for Teachers

The First Sin

The origin of sin lies in Adam and Eve, and their breaking of the first and only commandment God had given them: do not eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Although the serpent in truth deceived Eve with cunning words, the Bible indicates that Eve found "the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise" (Gen 3:6). Adam and Eve's partaking of the fruit brought about a punishment that far outweighed the knowledge they gained: shame before God, and death.

The shame that they felt was born out of the knowledge they gained; their interaction with each other was no longer innocent, but rather, when they saw each other, "they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings." With knowledge of evil came evil thoughts, and so they naturally felt ashamed upon seeing each other.

The punishment that followed was harsh, but righteous. The serpent was not only cursed, but from this point began the fight between Satan and ourselves. These verses also are the first to prophesy of Jesus Himself. Eve was punished with pain in childbirth, and a desire for her husband, who would always rule over her. The word "desire" can also be translated as "an attempt to usurp or control"; from hereon began the battle between male and female. Neither could live together in peace as they

once did. Adam's punishment was toiling on an earth cursed for his sake, and most notably, death, the ultimate consequence of sin. James 1:13-15 records: "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death."

The First Murder

Although the Bible does not explain how the practice of offerings began, it is clear that something about Cain's

offering was unacceptable to God. While it specifically mentions that Abel offered the firstborn of his flock and its fat, it says nothing that is remarkable or of note in Cain's offering, only that it was the "fruit of the ground" (Gen 4:3). Further, God's chastisement and warning indicates that Cain was not doing what was right, and that sin was beginning to take hold of his heart. This is confirmed in 1 John 3:12-13: Do not be "as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous." Sadly, Cain's punishment did not act as intended; he did not reflect on his sin at all, but instead worried only about his safety.



Reaching Out to Your Students

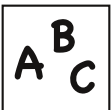
Children aged around 9-10 are at an age of moral awareness. They try to treat others nicely and fairly, and are at a point when they consider the feelings of others. Keep in mind, though, that in a few years, their views may change drastically. At that time, they will enter educational systems in which many of their teachers will not know them as individuals. They will meet new friends who will play a major role in their lives. Bad thoughts will become common, and they will have to deal with learning how to keep these thoughts from pulling them away from God. It's important that they be given many opportunities to express their feelings on life issues within the security of the religious education classroom. Allow them to freely practice expressing their concerns and problems with one another, so that when more problems arise, they will be able to help one another. If these issues are dealt with inside the religious education classroom, the risk of your students resolving their issues through the influences of the outside world will be greatly reduced.



Opener

5 Minutes

Collect several clippings from the newspaper concerning various crimes. Pair students together, and give each pair one news clipping. Ask the students to think of as many consequences that might have occurred as a result of that crime. Ask for volunteers to report. Help your students understand how every crime has a consequence that affects both themselves and those around them.



Vocabulary

- consequence:** the effect, result, or outcome of an action or occurrence
- punishment:** penalty inflicted due to a transgression
- enmity:** hatred
- banish:** to send away, exile
- tiller:** someone who takes care of the land and grows produce on it
- righteous:** upright, pleasing to God
- countenance:** facial expression
- vagabond:** wanderer; someone who moves from place to place
- fugitive:** someone who runs away to avoid being caught



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet before class. As you teach each section, give the students a few moments to fill in each row as they learn them. The answers have been underlined.

The First Sin

Adam was the very first man, formed out of dust by God, and Eve the first woman, formed out of Adam's rib. We know that they were the ones who brought sin into the world by being the very first to disobey God. But what does this have to do with us? Today, we'll study the consequences of that very first sin, and learn why it's important to us.

I. The First Consequence

First, let's turn to our Bibles and read Genesis 3:1-13. Who was involved? That's right, Adam and Eve! What was the one command that God gave them? (Do not eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.) It was this command that Adam and Eve both broke, due to the cunning words of the serpent. We know that, as a result, they were thrown out of the garden of Eden. But there were also other consequences that they faced. One of them is in the verses we just read. Let's look at the worksheet again.

After Adam and Eve ate the fruit, God's approach drove them into hiding, which is the first consequence of their sin: they felt guilt and shame for the very first time in human history. These feelings never existed until they ate the fruit and obtained the knowledge of good and evil. They could no longer face God in perfect fellowship, because of the knowledge the fruit gave to them.

II. The Second Consequence

Let's read Genesis 3:14-19. Who was involved? That's right, the serpent, Eve, and Adam. Direct punishment from God was the second consequence for their actions.

First, God dealt with the serpent, in verses 14-15. As the one who deceived Eve in the first place, the serpent was directly cursed by God and had to crawl on its belly. Also, enmity between the serpent and the woman and her offspring was established. This verse marks the beginning of the battle between Satan and ourselves.

Second, although Eve was not cursed as the serpent was, she still received a hard punishment for disobeying God. Let's read what it was in verse 16. Not only would she now experience pain in childbirth, she would also now be in conflict with man, instead of living in harmony as they did before.

Adam, too, was not directly cursed by God, although the Bible says that the ground was cursed for his sake.

Let's read the exact wording in verses 17-19. Adam was punished with hardship, and most importantly, death.

III. The Third Consequence

Let's read verses 20-24. Who was involved? That's right, Adam and Eve. Because Adam and Eve disobeyed God, the last consequence was that they were banished from the garden of Eden. This banishment did not only affect Adam and Eve, but all of their succeeding generations, including us.

IV. The Fourth Consequence

Let's turn to 1 Corinthians 15:21-22. Who was involved? That's right, Adam and Eve's descendants: us. We know from Adam's punishment that a direct consequence of sin is death. Adam brought sin into the world and onto all of us, and therefore all of us were destined to experience death. We are all born in sin and are unable to be free from death until we have been baptized and redeemed through the blood of Jesus. Thankfully, God sent His son to die for our sins, so that we might live. Adam was the origin of sin, so Jesus became the origin of life.

The First Murder

Adam and Eve later had two sons named Cain and Abel. Cain was a tiller of the ground and Abel took care of sheep. Let's read the story in Genesis 4:2-7. We can see that Cain became angry that God preferred Abel's offering. What are some reasons God preferred Abel's offering? (Abel offered the firstborn of his flock and their fat, whereas Cain only offered some fruit. Also, verse 6 implies that Cain simply did not do well.) God, seeing that Cain was angry, reminded him that if he worked hard and did well, then his offering would be accepted. In addition, He even warned Cain against falling into sin.

Unfortunately, God's warning fell on deaf ears. Cain, instead of seeking to improve himself, decided to get rid of his competition. Let's read verses 8-15. Who was involved? That's right, Cain. Cain gave in to the control of sin and killed his brother. Now let's look at the worksheet. The consequence for this was a severe punishment from God. Not only could Cain no longer be a tiller, he was to experience exile as a vagabond and a fugitive.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

Salvation is given by grace through faith.

However, it is necessary to rely on the Holy Spirit to pursue holiness and to keep the biblical teachings of honoring God and loving humanity.

Death is the consequence when we submit to sin, but life is the consequence when we have faith in Jesus. Jesus offered us salvation, which we receive when we believe in Him and are baptized. However, these are not the only steps to eternal life; it is also necessary that we follow the teachings of the Bible with the help of the Holy Spirit. As long as we closely follow God's word, we will be able to once again see God face to face.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **What was the first consequence Adam and Eve faced after breaking God's command?** They felt guilt and shame for the first time, and hid themselves from God.
2. **What consequence did the serpent face for tempting Eve?** It was cursed to crawl on its belly, and from that point on, there would be enmity between the serpent and the woman and her offspring.
3. **What were Eve's consequences for disobeying God?** She would experience pain in childbirth, and would be in conflict with man.
4. **What consequences did Adam face for disobeying God?** Adam would toil on a cursed ground and experience death. Also, he was banished from the garden.
5. **What did Cain offer to God?** Some of the fruit of the ground.
6. **What did Abel offer to God?** The firstborn of his flock and their fat.
7. **How did God receive their offerings?** God favored Abel's, but did not look upon Cain's.
8. **What did God say to Cain upon seeing his angry countenance?** If he worked hard and did well, then he would be accepted. He also told Cain that sin lies at the door, and that he must master it, not the other way around.

True or False

9. **God punished Cain so that when he worked the ground, it would no longer yield crops for him. He was now a fugitive.** True.
10. **Cain felt sorry about killing Abel.** False. Cain only worried about his punishment.

Homework Answer Key

1. obey, walk, commanded, well
2. Adam would suffer hardships and toil on cursed ground; man would also receive death. Eve would suffer pain during childbirth. The serpent was cursed and had to crawl on its belly from then on, and there would be enmity between the serpent and Eve's offspring.
3. Recognize our tendency to sin; pray; run away from temptation; resist with the word of God; remember sins have consequences



Life Application

10 Minutes

1. Steps to Avoid Temptation

[Hand out Life Application Worksheet #1. Go over the following content, making sure to pause for the students to fill in the blanks. If time allows, ask the students to share their answers as they fill in each blank.]

Temptation is something we all face as Christians, no matter how long we have been following Christ. There are a few practical things we can do in our struggle against sin. You can learn how to avoid temptation by practicing these five steps.

Here's How:

1. **Recognize your tendency toward sin.**

We are tempted when we become enticed by our own natural desires. The first step toward avoiding temptation, is recognizing our human tendency to be tempted by our own fleshly desires.

When are you most tempted? _____

2. **Pray!**

We are not strong enough to resist temptation alone. We need God's help. When you see temptation coming, immediately cry out, "Lord, help me! Show me Your way of escape!"

3. **Run away from the temptation.**

In 1 Corinthians 10:13, it says, "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."

When you are face to face with temptation, look for the way out that God has promised and then run as fast as you can. The key is to look for a way to run!!!

4. **Resist with the word of truth.**

"Jesus answered, 'It is written [in the Scriptures]...'" (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10; Luke 4:4, 8, 12)

When you are facing strong temptations, you can do the same as Jesus did when He was tempted. God's word is a powerful weapon against the lies of Satan. God's word also gives us wisdom and direction when we face difficult decisions.

Memorize the Ten Commandments. Memorize the word of God! Hebrews 4:12 says God's word is living and powerful. Did you know you can carry a weapon that will make your thoughts obey Jesus Christ?

5. **Remember that sin always has consequences.**

"For the wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6:23)

Our sins are never hidden. God sees and knows them all. Even though we may not recognize it, sin always has destructive consequences. The Bible is full of examples of "small" sins that eventually destroyed people's lives.

- a. Eve's desire to be "wise as God" and Adam's failure to protect her (Gen 3)
- b. Cain's hatred of his brother Abel (Gen 4)
- c. Greed and dishonesty (Josh 7; 1 Sam 15; John 12:1-8; Acts 5:1-11)

2. Don't Give In to Temptation!

[Hand out Life Application Worksheet #2. Read the following scenario with the students, or ask them to read silently on their own. When everyone is finished reading, go over the discussion questions as a class. Ask students to share their answers as you go over each question.]

Vicky could not believe that she was actually at a police station. But, it was too late. It all started from an innocent conversation she had with her friend, Judy. Judy mentioned how she really liked certain necklaces that many girls at school were wearing. Vicky said, "Yeah, I really like them too. They're selling them everywhere." As they spoke about different styles they liked, they agreed to look for them the next time they went shopping. A week later, they found them while shopping with Vicky's mother. "Wow, I really like this one!" Vicky picked one up and showed it to her mother and Judy. Vicky's mom shook her head.

"I'm not buying anymore jewelry for you, young lady. You have plenty."

"But, Mom," Vicky pleaded, "This one is special. I love this one. Please?!"

Vicky's mom ignored her and said she was going to the home appliances department. She told them to follow soon.

Vicky and Judy lingered at the jewelry section. Vicky decided not to give up so soon. She really wanted the necklace! She held onto it and kept thinking of a way to get it. Then, Judy interrupted her thoughts: "Put it back, Vicky. You know you don't have the money to buy it."

Vicky nodded, with a funny look on her face. "I know. I just want to look at it a bit longer..."

Judy, seeing the look on Vicky's face, had a weird feeling that she was about to do something. As they lingered, Judy saw a watch from the corner of her eye and turned to examine it. A few moments later, Judy turned around, but Vicky had disappeared. Judy quickly went to look for her when she heard a sales lady reporting a possible shoplifter on the phone. Although she was curious, she thought that she should find Vicky and her mom first. Just then, two security men came to the jewelry department and took hold of someone. The sales lady joined them and began to walk away. "Hey, wait a minute. They're taking away Vicky!" Judy could not believe her eyes! "Vicky!" Judy called out to her friend.

All she could see was Vicky's teary face just before she turned the corner. Soon, the store manager called Vicky's mom to go to the office. Judy followed behind her. Once there, they found the silver necklace in Vicky's pocket. "I'm sorry! I really am!" Vicky cried with her head bowed. Vicky couldn't believe what she had done. She just really wanted the necklace. She had never done such a foolish thing. Even though she made one wrong decision, she had to face the consequences. She could just imagine how sad this made her mother and Judy feel. Vicky's mom followed them as they began to take her away. "Please, sir, give her another chance. She's only a child. Look, I can pay for the necklace right now. How much is it?"

Judy could tell how Vicky and her mom were very scared. Judy was too. The store manager said sternly: "I am sorry, but I'm afraid it is too late. Shoplifting is a serious offense. We have to report it to the police." Vicky's mom tried again to convince the manager, but he could not be moved. Vicky felt so guilty and scared. She knew she was now facing the consequences of her foolish decision.

1. What are some possible consequences Vicky would have to face?

Feeling guilt for sinning, losing her mother's trust, getting punished by her parents or law enforcement, etc.

2. What are some ways Vicky could have avoided sinning in the first place?

Answers will vary.

By remembering God's commands and memorizing some Bible verses, praying for strength, avoiding talk of wanting things that other people had, remembering all the things she had at home, etc.

3. Turn to the following Bible verse and fill in the blanks:

"But this is what I commanded them, saying, ' (Obey) My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And (walk) in all the ways that I have (commanded) you, that it may be (well) with you.'" (Jeremiah 7:23)



Activity

1. The Candy

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To reflect on the importance of discipline and obedience in our faith.

Materials

- 1 bag of candy (check if your students have any allergies)

Instructions

1. Place a bag of candy in the middle of the students' desks or in front of each student before class begins. Tell them that they cannot touch the candy.
2. Go through the lesson and when it's activity time, ask the students the following questions:
 - a. Was it hard not to take the candy? Why or why not?
 - b. What did you think or do to overcome your desire to take the candy?
3. Tell the students that our faith is often like this activity. God gives us commands for us to obey that prevent us from committing sins against God. Although we may have the desire to do certain things that are sins, we need to have discipline and self-control. For example, some of the students may have wanted to take the candy, but because the teacher told them not to, they couldn't. Encourage your students to obey God's words, and to ask God for strength to keep His commands.
4. You can let the students eat the candy after class!

* * * * *

2. Overcoming Disobedience

Objective: To reflect on ways to overcome disobedience.

Instructions

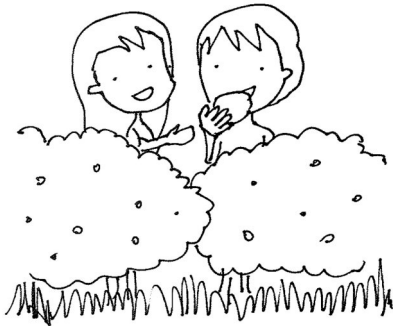
1. Divide your students into groups of 3-4, and distribute pieces of blank paper among them.
2. Explain to your students that they will be given a scenario. After listening to the scenario, the students will brainstorm ways to avoid sinning.
3. Read the following scenario to them (or type it on slips of paper and give each group a slip):

Bill didn't study for a science test. He brushed it off, thinking, "It's OK. I usually do pretty well on science tests." The next day, as Bill was taking the science test, he stared at his blank test paper in disbelief. He only knew the answer to one question. Bill was afraid he would fail the test—he never failed tests. Bill glanced over and saw that his friend's test was clearly visible from his position. Maybe, he thought, he could just copy down a few answers...

4. Ask the students to brainstorm ways to overcome disobedience based on the scenario above.
5. Discuss what they should do when they have the same or similar thoughts. Give advice on how to avoid temptation and encourage obedience.

The First Sin and the First Murder

The First Sin			
	Who's Involved	Consequence	Bible Verses
Consequence #1	1.		Gen 3:8-10
Consequence #2	1. 2. 3.		Gen 3:14-19
Consequence #3	1. 2.		Gen 3:20-24
Consequence #4	1.		1 Cor 15:21-22



The First Murder			
	Who's Involved	Consequence	Bible Verses
Consequence			Gen 4:8-12



Steps to Avoid Temptation

Temptation is something we all face as Christians, no matter how long we have been following Christ. There are a few practical things we can do in our struggle against sin. You can learn how to avoid temptation by practicing these five steps.

Here's How:

1. _____ your tendency toward sin.

We are tempted when we become enticed by our own natural desires. The first step toward avoiding temptation, is recognizing our human tendency to be tempted by our own fleshly desires.

When are you most tempted? _____

2. _____!

We are not strong enough to resist temptation alone. We need God's help. When you see temptation coming, immediately cry out, "Lord, help me! Show me Your way of **escape!**"

3. _____ from the temptation.

In 1 Corinthians 10:13, it says, "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."

When you are face to face with temptation, look for the way out that God has promised and then run as fast as you can. The key is to look for a way to run!!!

4. _____ with the word of truth.

"Jesus answered, 'It is written [in the Scriptures]...'" (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10; Luke 4:4, 8, 12)

When you are facing strong temptations, you can do the same as Jesus did when He was tempted. God's word is a powerful weapon against the lies of Satan. God's word also gives us wisdom and direction when we face difficult decisions.

Memorize the Ten Commandments. Memorize the word of God! Hebrews 4:12 says God's word is living and powerful. Did you know you can carry a weapon that will make your thoughts obey Jesus Christ?

5. _____ that sin always has consequences.

"For the wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6:23)

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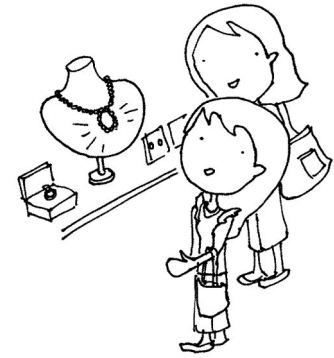
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1. What are some possible consequences Vicky would have to face?

2. What are some ways Vicky could have avoided sinning in the first place?

3. Turn to the following Bible verse and fill in the blanks:

"But this is what I commanded them, saying, ' _____ My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And _____ in all the ways that I have _____ you, that it may be _____ with you.'" (Jeremiah 7:23)



E2 Year 1 Book 2 Lesson 3—The First Sin and the First Murder

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (1 Samuel 15:22b)

Fill In the Blank

1. "But this is what I commanded them, saying, ' _____ My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And _____ in all the ways that I have _____ you, that it may be _____ with you.'" (Jeremiah 7:23)

Short Answer

2. Read Genesis 3:8-24. Write down 3 consequences that Adam, Eve, and the serpent had to face as a result of disobeying God's word.

Adam:

Eve:

Serpent:

3. List 4 things you can do to avoid temptation. Refer to 1 Corinthians 10:13 for a start.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.