

LESSON 3

THE FALL OF MAN

BEFORE YOU TEACH

The Garden of Eden

Your students may wonder where the garden of Eden was located and if they can go there. The location of the garden has been debated, but it is generally accepted to be near the mouth of the Euphrates River at the head of the Persian Gulf. Of course, the garden of Eden is no longer in existence; conjectures about the site of the garden have been made by examining ruins and archaeological evidence.

The Two Trees

Four rivers flowed through the garden of Eden, and it contained many trees, including the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. In Hebrew, the name of the latter tree suggests full and complete moral awareness. Because Adam and Eve violated the divine command not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, sin entered the human race (Rom 5:12-14). After Adam and Eve were driven from the garden, God prevented them from eating of the tree of life. This was in fact the mercy and grace of God. It would have been tragic if they had eaten from the life-giving tree and been doomed to a life of eternal suffering.

Satan

The students might understand that it was Satan that had disguised himself as the serpent to deceive Eve. They may wonder who Satan is, and where he comes from. Satan had been a beautiful and special being that lived in heaven (Isa 14:12) but he challenged God (Isa 14:13-15). Because of his disobedience, he was cast out of heaven and now works on earth (Ezek 28:16; Lk 10:18). Satan tempts us to do wrong, but Jesus is stronger. Jesus is the Lord, Creator of all the earth. Jesus came into the world to “destroy the works of the devil” (1 Jn 3:8).

Jesus demonstrated His superiority by resisting Satan’s temptations (Mt 4:1-11; Lk 4:1-13) and by casting out demons. By His death and resurrection, Jesus shattered the power of Satan over mankind (Col 2:14-15; Heb 2:14-15). Satan will one day receive his punishment and will be cast into the lake of fire (Rev 20:10).

We Are All Sinners Because of Adam and Eve

Genesis 3 describes Adam and Eve’s rebellion against God and His command. Because of Adam and Eve’s disobedience, sin became an “inheritance” for all of their descendants. Romans 5:12 tells us that sin entered the world through one man and so death was passed on to all men because all have sinned. Just as we inherit physical characteristics from our parents, we inherit our sinful nature from Adam. Sin is described as a transgression of the law of God (1 Jn 3:4). David lamented this fact in one of his Psalms: “Behold, I was brought forth in

BIBLE TEXT

Genesis 2:8-17; 3

BIBLE TRUTH

When we make a wrong decision and sin against God, we have to suffer the consequences.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To obey God’s commands and take responsibility for our daily actions.
2. To fear God by keeping His commandments.

MEMORY VERSE

“Your word I have hidden in my heart,
that I might not sin against You.”

(Psalm 119:11)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Lord, we come again to worship You and to learn more about You. Please let us understand that we need to fear You and keep Your commandments. By fearing You and putting You first, we will be careful not to make the wrong choices and sin against You. Please keep us in Your love. Hallelujah! Amen.

iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me" (Ps 51:5).

Since "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom 3:23), we need a perfect, sinless sacrifice to wash away our sin. We are all powerless to do this on our own. Thankfully, Jesus Christ is the Savior from sin! Our sin has been crucified on the cross, and now "in Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Eph 1:7).

Fear God and Keep His Commandments

Even though we have Jesus Christ as our Savior to wash away our sins, we need to fear God and keep His commandments. Proverbs 1:7a declares, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge." Until we understand who God is and develop a reverential fear of Him, we cannot have true wisdom. When we fear God, we are respecting Him, obeying Him, submitting to His discipline, and worshipping Him in awe.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Most children at this age have experienced punishment for doing something wrong. They can probably relate to Adam and Eve and how they were punished for disobeying God. Unfortunately, the punishment for wrongdoing is often stressed over the reward for good actions, so many children refrain from certain actions due to fear. As teachers, we should try to encourage good behavior positively through love. This does not mean that

we should never punish a child—at times, a child needs to experience the consequences of an action. But through the example of Jesus, we can see that people are moved to change their lives not because of fear, but because of love. We should ask God to help us appreciate each individual child—no matter how difficult or unlovely. We can show each one our acceptance and approval in observable ways: a smile, a few kind words, or a pat on the shoulder. Be consistently warm and positive. Be pleasant, but not permissive. We must still meet a child's need for security and stability by providing structure, so expect obedience. Ask God to help us create a balance between discipline and compassion.

Another problem children face is that they are not equipped with the knowledge of what to do after they have done something wrong. Thus the natural inclination of human nature surfaces and the children either deny the action or blame someone else. We can help them understand that only when they confess their wrongdoing can they receive forgiveness, and if they don't, the guilt will stay with them. The only chance for forgiveness is through confession and repentance; denial and blame will get them nowhere. At the same time, we can let them know that although their wrong actions are unacceptable, they are still special and precious in the eyes of God. As the children begin to grow in this positive environment, they will find an intrinsic value in being good and in obeying the words of God, a value which will follow them into adulthood.

VOCABULARY

temptation:	a craving or desire for something, especially something that is wrong
serpent:	a snake; in this story, the serpent represents Satan
sly:	cunning and lacking honesty
tree of the knowledge of good and evil:	one of the two special trees in the garden of Eden; eating the fruit would allow one to know the difference between good and evil
tree of life:	one of the two special trees in the garden of Eden; eating the fruit would allow one to live forever
curse:	to wish harm upon
consequence:	something that follows as a result

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about the last two days of God's creation. Do you remember what God created on the fifth and sixth days? [Wait for students to respond.] Right! Animals and man. Now, I would like to invite everyone to take a journey with me to the garden of Eden. We are going to meet some of God's amazing creations. Let's close our eyes [point to your eyes] and open our imaginary eyes [point to your heart]. Are you ready? If you are, nod your head with your eyes closed. [Look around to see if everyone is ready.] Let's go!

As I tell you what animals we see in the garden, I would like you to make that animal sound. Oh, wow, right in front of us I see a giant elephant coming to greet us [give students cue to make the elephant sound]. And here comes a beautiful, fluffy, white sheep coming our way [give cue for students to make the sheep sound]. You can all touch its fluffy wool if you would like. Watch out, everyone! Don't step into the creek on your left! The water is icy cold. Let's just stay on this side of the creek and see what else we might meet. Let's take out our binoculars now! [Make hand gestures and pretend that you have binoculars in your hand.] I think I see something beautiful not too far from the other side of the creek. It is a fruit tree. Look, do you all see a snake, also called a serpent, on that beautiful fruit tree? The fruit on that tree sure looks tasty. Wait a minute, I think I see Eve walking this way! She is looking at the fruit as well and talking to the snake. Uh, oh...I feel a gust of strong wind blowing at us. Hold on tight everyone, and keep your eyes closed. The wind is strong. Oh, no, we're back to our classroom now. Are you okay, everyone? I wish we could stay at the garden of Eden a bit longer. It is indeed a wonderful place, but I have a feeling that something bad is going to happen to Eve soon. That snake looks like it is getting Eve into trouble. Let's continue the story of what happened after God created man. [Ask students to open their eyes now.]

BIBLE STORY

The Garden of Eden

After God created man, He placed Adam and his wife Eve in a beautiful place called the garden of Eden. In this garden were all kinds of trees and plants with delicious fruit. It was Adam's job to take care of the garden and work it. God also brought all the animals to Adam for him to name. Also inside the garden were two very special trees. What were the names of these special trees? One was called the tree of life and the other the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. What would happen if Adam and Eve ate from the tree of life? (They would live forever.) What would happen if they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? (They would be able to tell the difference between what is good and what is bad.) The beautiful tree that we saw in the garden during our imaginary walk was one of these two trees. God had only one rule for Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, and it was that they must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God had warned them that if they ate from it, they would die [say this in a slow warning tone].

The Crafty Serpent

Let's open the Bible and turn to Genesis 3:1-7. Let's read one verse each. [Have students take turns reading the verses.] One day while Eve was in the garden, she heard a voice talking to her. Can you guess who was talking to Eve? (A serpent; make the connection between serpent and Satan.) The crafty serpent said to her, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"

Eve replied, "No, God said that we can eat from any of the trees, except the one in the middle of the garden. He said that if we eat from it, we will die."

The sly serpent said to her, "You will not die. God knows that when you eat the fruit, your eyes will be opened and you will be just like God, knowing good and evil."

The Fall of Man

Eve looked at the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and it looked so tempting. Since its fruit was okay to eat, looked delicious and, according to the serpent, would also make her wise, she took of it and ate. Was Eve alone when she was talking with the serpent? (No, Adam was with her.) She gave some of the fruit to Adam, who was with her, and he also ate it. When they ate the fruit, both of their eyes were opened, and they realized that they were naked. They sewed fig leaves together to make clothes for themselves. Why do you think they covered themselves? (Because they were ashamed.)

Adam and Eve Hide

Then Adam and Eve heard the Lord God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day. They were very scared because they knew they had done something wrong, so they hid among the trees.

I would like you to take a minute to pretend that you are Adam and Eve. Let's say that you have just eaten from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and know that you are in big trouble. What would you do now? Would

you hide just like Adam and Eve? Or would you do something different? [Have students turn to their neighbor and pair-share. Ask a few students to tell the class the actions they might take.] Let's continue to read Genesis 3:8-13 and find out what happened next.

God was looking for Adam and Eve. He called out to Adam, "Where are you?"

Adam answered, "I heard You in the garden. I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid from You."

God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

Adam replied, "The woman You put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

God turned to Eve, "What is this you have done?"

"The serpent tricked me, and I ate it," Eve said to God.

In this way, Adam and Eve disobeyed the Lord, and had to suffer from then on.

The Curses

When we do something wrong, we often receive punishment for our actions. Because Adam, Eve, and the snake disobeyed God, God's punishment was to curse each one of them.

So God cursed the serpent, saying that it would be doomed to crawl on its belly all the days of its life. It would eat the dust, and it would be the enemy of all man.

Then the Lord said to Eve, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children." Because Eve disobeyed God, giving birth would now be very painful for women.

To Adam, God said, "Because you listened to your wife

and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. [...] By the sweat of your brow, you will eat your food until you return to the ground."

This meant that Adam and his wife would no longer be able to live in the beautiful garden. Instead of eating the delicious fruits in the garden, man now had to work very hard for food.

Adam and Eve Driven From the Garden

Even after Adam and Eve made this big mistake, God still loved them. He made clothing out of animal skin for Adam and Eve to keep them covered and warm. Now there was one other tree in the garden of Eden called the tree of life. God said that man must not also be allowed to eat from the tree of life, for it gave immortality. We may think that it was an unfair punishment, but this was the mercy of God. If they did eat of it, they would have had to live in misery and sadness forever. So God drove them out of the wonderful, peaceful garden, and He placed an angel east of the garden, and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Let's put ourselves into Adam and Eve's shoes. Do you think that it is easy to resist temptation and obey God's commands all the time? Raise your hand if you think it is easy to do what God tells us to do. Well, it is definitely not that easy, but we can do it with God's help! When we say the Lord's Prayer, we ask God not to lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. God will help us if we truly rely on Him and ask for His help! Also, remember that we can always be honest with God and ask for His forgiveness even when we make a mistake.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. What was the one rule that God had for Adam and Eve?

They must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

2. Who tricked the woman into eating the fruit? The serpent/Satan.

3. What was the curse put upon the serpent?

He was cursed to crawl on the ground and eat dust for all his life, and he would be the enemy of man forever.

4. What was the consequence for woman? It would be very painful to give birth.

5. What was the consequence for man? He would have to work hard for food in order to survive.

6. How did God show His mercy and love to Adam and Eve after they sinned against God?

God made clothing from animal skin for Adam and Eve to wear. God also commanded a sword to guard the way to the tree of life, so that Adam and Eve could not eat fruit from the tree of life and live in misery forever.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.

You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You." (Psalm 119:11)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. When we sin against God, we have to suffer the consequences.

We should take God's commands seriously, and ask Him in our daily prayers to help us resist temptations.

We need to have the courage to say "no" to bad influences and temptations.

If we face temptation, it may help to simply walk away.

The next time you face temptation, remember what happened to Adam and Eve when they gave into temptation. They were punished and had to face the consequences. If we give in to our temptations, we will also face the consequences.

We must remember to pray and ask God to help us make the right decisions every day.

2. God is loving. Even when we do something wrong, we can turn to God and ask for His forgiveness.

Be honest with God. He knows what is going on in our daily lives even when we try to hide from Him.

Don't blame others for our own mistakes. Just admit the wrongdoing and ask for God's forgiveness.

The best way to show your humility and repentance is to stop repeating the same mistake or giving in to the same temptation. This is pleasing to God.

Read the following story with your students and answer the discussion questions.

Making the Right Decision

Andy started second grade a few weeks ago. He noticed that several of his classmates who lived in his neighborhood rode their bikes to school every morning. He thought to himself, "Wouldn't it be cool if I could also bike with them? I've got to ask Mom and Dad to get me a good bike."

One evening when Andy was having dinner with his older brother Gilbert and his parents, he excitedly told them about the classmates he got to know at school and their biking plan.

Andy continued, saying, "Mom and Dad, it would be so cool if I could ride with my friends. My birthday is coming up, and you promised to buy me a present that I really want. I can tell you for sure that I would really like to get a new bike for my birthday present. Is that okay?"

Mom looked at Andy and said, "I'm glad you're already making friends at school. How wonderful! Riding a bike to school should be okay as long as you are careful, but we've got to hold off on buying a new bike for now. The one that you have right now still works. Why don't you just ride it to school?"

"No fair, Mom. Why does Gilbert get to have a new bike and I don't?" Andy grumbled.

"Be reasonable, Andy. Your older brother got his new bike with his own savings. You can start to save up your allowance like he does, and pretty soon I'm sure you'll be able to buy a new bike as well," Dad replied.

"But what about my birthday present?" Andy pleaded.

"Andy, your birthday is still months away. Plus, we'll have to see how well you behave in the months to come. We will talk about your present later," Dad said in his "end-of-discussion" voice.

Andy pouted, quickly finished his dinner, and then went to his room. Andy really wanted a new bike to ride with his friends. "Riding on an old bike is not cool," he thought. Then Andy got his piggy bank from the shelf and counted how much money he had. He counted forty dollars. Andy knew that the kind of bike he wanted would probably cost \$70 to \$80. He was still short \$30 to \$40. If he listened to his parents and saved up his weekly allowance, it would take him a few more months before he could get a new bike. However, Andy wanted a new bike badly. Then he remembered that his mom usually put some grocery money in the kitchen drawer. Strangely, all kinds of ideas began to spin through his head.

That night Andy waited until everyone was asleep before sneaking out of bed. He headed straight to the kitchen drawer, quickly took some money out, and put it into his pocket. Andy ran back to his room, and slowly took out the money from his pocket. He counted how much he had taken—forty dollars. Andy was so excited about it, because now he had enough money to buy a brand new bike. As he held onto the money in his hand tightly, Andy started to get worried. “What if Mom and Dad find out about this?” he thought to himself. He would indeed be in big trouble. Rubbing his sleepy eyes, he fell asleep with the money still in his hands.

The next morning Andy got up feeling tired. He was still worried about stealing his mom’s money. He was troubled. He thought he was ready to go get himself a brand new bike. And yet, he knew that stealing his mom’s money was the wrong thing to do. He really shouldn’t have done that. As he got ready to go to school, he started to feel really bad about the whole thing. He knew that not only would his parents get upset when they found out, God would not be happy with what he did either. After thinking about it, Andy took the money and put it back in the drawer before anyone saw him. Then, he walked out the door and went off to school.

What a relief! Andy felt proud of himself for making the right decision. He knew that God would be proud of him, too. He said a quick prayer in his heart to ask God to forgive him for taking the money in the first place. He asked God to help him make the right choices from now on. As for the new bike, he would just have to start saving up, even if it meant waiting for a few more months. And maybe riding the old bike to school was really not so bad after all.

Questions to Think About

1. What did Andy want to do with his new friends?

He wanted to ride a new bike to school with his friends.

2. What did Andy ask his parents to do?

He asked them to buy him a brand new bike for his birthday.

3. What was his parents’ reaction to his request?

They wanted Andy to save up his allowance for his new bike. They were not going to buy one for him right away.

4. What happened that night when everyone was asleep?

Andy got up secretly and took his mom’s money from the kitchen drawer.

5. After much struggling, what did Andy decide to do eventually?

He decided to put the money back in the drawer and wait until he had saved up enough money to buy a new bike.

6. What did you learn from Andy?

Answers may vary. A possible answer might be, “I learned to make the right decision to make God happy.”

HOMWORK ANSWER KEY

1. life, knowledge
2. serpent
3. ashamed
4. work
5. pain
6. crawl
7. False; Adam blamed Eve.
8. False; they were sent away from Eden.
9. True
10. Answers may vary.

ACTIVITIES

1 Picture the Verse

Objective: To reinforce this week's memory verse.

Materials

- Red construction paper
- Heart patterns
- Black markers
- Scissors

Instructions

1. Pass out the red construction paper and the heart patterns.
2. Have the students trace the heart pattern onto the red construction paper and cut it out.
3. Ask the students to write the memory verse on the heart.
4. Review the memory verse together with the students.

2 Give Your Advice

Objective: To reinforce the students' knowledge of making the right choice.

Materials

- Index cards
- Pencils
- Crayons

Instructions

1. Pass out an index card to each student, and have them write out three pieces of advice that they can give to Adam and Eve to convince them to say "no" to the crafty serpent.
2. They can draw on the blank side of the index card if they have time. As soon as they are done, ask the students to switch their cards with their neighbor and read aloud to the class.
3. Take some time to talk about how Adam and Eve could have made a better decision. Ask students how they will handle a situation when they are tempted to do something wrong.

3 Act It Out / Optional

Objective: To review the Bible story.

Instructions

Call on three volunteers (Adam, Eve, Serpent) to act out the events from the story. You may want to bring a piece of fruit for visual effect. You can read portions from Genesis 3 to help.

[Adam & Eve stand at one side of the room. The serpent "crawls" across the floor to them.]

Serpent: "Did God really say not to eat from that tree?"

Eve: "God said if we eat from it, we will die."

Serpent: "You will not die if you eat this."

[Remind the students about the choice.]

[Eve looks at the fruit.]

Eve: "This looks like good fruit, why would God not want me to eat it?"

[She takes a bite and shares with Adam.]

Explain to the students that life is full of choices and every choice makes other things happen. Some choices lead to good things and others lead to bad things. This choice to disobey God resulted in many bad things for all people.

E1 Year 1 Book 1 Lesson 3—The Fall of Man

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: When we make a wrong decision and sin against God, we have to suffer the consequences.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To obey God’s commands and take responsibility for our daily actions.
 2. To fear God by keeping His commandments.

Bible Reading: Please put a checkmark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a checkmark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Psalm 119:11)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

