

SIN ENTERED THE WORLD

Genesis 2-3



After God made Adam, He placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it. God commanded him, “You can eat from any tree of the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die.”

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals God had made. One day, he asked Adam’s wife, Eve, “Did God really say, ‘You can’t eat from any tree in the garden’?”

Eve said, “We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. But God said we must not eat the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden. He said, ‘You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.’”

“No! You will certainly not die,” the serpent said. “In fact, God knows that when you eat it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Eve saw that the fruit looked good and she wanted to be wise like God, so she took some of the fruit and ate it. She gave some to Adam, who was with her, and he ate it too. As soon as they ate the fruit, their eyes were opened and they knew they were naked. They made clothes for themselves by sewing together fig leaves.

In the evening, Adam and Eve heard God walking in the garden, so they hid. God called

out to Adam, “Where are you?” Adam replied, “I heard You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.”

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

Adam immediately blamed Eve and said, “She gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.” Eve blamed the serpent and said, “He deceived me, and I ate.” God cursed the serpent by making him crawl on his belly. Adam and Eve also had consequences for their disobedience. Life would be hard and painful, all because of sin. The ultimate consequence for humanity’s disobedience to God is death. But God promised that one of the woman’s descendants would destroy the serpent.

God was merciful to Adam and Eve. He made clothes for them out of animal skins before He 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: Adam and Eve sinned when they rejected God’s good plan and disobeyed His command. Sin separates people from God, but God didn’t leave them without hope. God sent His Son, Jesus, to live as Adam didn’t—perfectly sinless. God the Son came to earth as a man to rescue people from sin.



1 WELCOME TIME

Greet each preteen as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

- **What are some choices you make every day or throughout the week? Do you get to choose what you wear or eat?**
- **How do you decide what to choose?**

2 SESSION STARTER

☐ OPTION 1: WHAT DID I SAY?



Form kids into pairs and direct them to listen closely as you call out a list of statements. Then invite pairs to repeat the statements to each other as best as they can recall. Consider saying the following statements one after the other:

- I like the color blue.
- The flowers in my garden are roses.
- Broccoli is the worst vegetable.
- Panda bears only eat bamboo.

Provide pairs with a piece of paper and a pencil. Call out the statements again, but this time change a word or two. Encourage kids to listen for any changes. For example, "I like the color red." Lead kids to write down any words that are different from the original statement. Review the answers together to see who identified the changes.

SAY “ The second set of statements I spoke had subtle changes. You had to listen closely and remember the words I spoke to hear what was different. This reminds me of how God gave a good command to Adam and Eve in the garden, but the serpent twisted God’s words. Today, we’ll learn how sin entered the world because Eve chose to believe the lies of the serpent. **SIN IS DISOBEYING GOD AND HIS COMMANDS.** ”

☐ OPTION 2: DISTORTED IMAGE

Form groups of three or four kids. Provide each group with a hand mirror. Invite kids to take turns looking at their reflections, noticing specific details such as their eye color, nose shape, and if they have freckles. Encourage kids to share the different details they notice.

Then provide groups with a piece of plastic cling wrap. Direct groups to wrap their mirrors with the cling wrap so that the mirror is covered in four or five layers of the wrap. Invite kids to look at their reflections again. Lead kids to share what has changed now that the mirror has wrap over it.

SAY “ When God made Adam and Eve, they were able to perfectly reflect their Creator. Today, we will learn how the sinful choice Adam and Eve made not only distorted their reflection of God but also separated them from Him. Yet, God gave them hope: one day, the perfect image of God would come into the world and save people from sin. ”



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Today we are going to hear about how sin entered the world. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

Read from Genesis 2:8-17; 3:1-24.

•What does this story teach us about God?

When God made the world, He made everything good. A good God creates only good things. And God is good because He cannot sin. He is truthful and holy. Since God is good, holy, and true; everything He says or does can be trusted, including His commands.

•Adam and Eve would face death because of their sin, but God also gave a wonderful promise. What was the promise?

Genesis 3:15 tells us that God promised a Rescuer would come to defeat sin. The Bible tells us that this Rescuer would be in the perfect image of God. He wouldn't be sinful and have a broken image, but He would show us exactly what God is like because He would be holy.

Form groups of two or three and practice retelling the Bible story in your own words. Think of someone you could share the story with this week.

2 MISSIONS MOMENT

Remind kids that Eric and Ramona Reese are missionaries in Brazil. Tell kids that you are going to read statements about Brazil. Direct kids to stand if they think the answer is true or sit down if they think it is false. Read the following statements, pausing after each for kids to respond before revealing the answer.

- Brazil is the fifth largest nation in the world. (true)
- The official language of Brazil is Spanish. (false, Portuguese)
- More than 208 million people live in Brazil. (true)
- Brazil borders the Pacific Ocean. (false, Atlantic Ocean)
- Eric and Ramona Reese have served in Brazil more than 20 years. (true)



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

Because Adam and Eve sinned, all people now sin. Sin is disobeying God and His commands. We all have hearts that choose our own way instead of God's way. God sent His son, Jesus, to defeat sin and death so we can have new hearts that want to love and follow Him. Have you trusted in Jesus to save you from sin? [Seek the Holy Spirit's leading as you share the gospel.]

4 PRAY

Dear Father in heaven, we praise You for being a good Creator who gives good commands. Help us trust You and obey Your Word. Help us trust in Jesus, who saves us from sin. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

				
GOD RULES	WE SINNED	GOD PROVIDED	JESUS GIVES	WE RESPOND
Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.	Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.	Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.	Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.	Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

1 THINK ABOUT THE STORY

- **Why did God make Adam and Eve? Why did He make a tree they could not eat from?**
- **How did God show Adam and Eve mercy? How does He show us mercy?**

2 GROUP DISCUSSION

Distribute Bibles. Guide preteens to open their Bibles to Genesis 3. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Genesis 3:15,21. Remind preteens that sin is disobeying God and His commands. Discuss how Adam and Eve's sin brought terrible consequences. Then share how God made a promise to send a Rescuer to save people from their sin. Tell kids that one of Eve's descendants—Jesus—would come at just the right time to sacrifice Himself for our sin. Tell kids that faith in Jesus clothes us in righteousness so we are able to come to a holy God. Explain that in Jesus, we are given new hearts that desire to obey God and His commands.

Choose another volunteer to read aloud Genesis 3:15,21 again. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. What does sin do to our relationships with people and with God?

Remind kids that Adam and Eve's response to being caught in their sin was to blame each other. Point out that they also tried to hide from God and cover their shame. Discuss how sin creates brokenness in relationships. Explain that sin separates us from God and leads to death. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 3:23.)

2. What is the ultimate consequence of sin?

Discuss how God said that eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and disobeying His command would lead to death. Explain that sin leads to a physical and spiritual death because sin separates us from God. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 5:12.)

3. Why is God's promise that one of the woman's descendants would destroy the serpent good news?

Point out that this promise points to God's Son, Jesus, who would enter the world and live a perfect life. Tell kids that Jesus gave Himself as a sacrifice on the cross for our sins and defeated death so that all who trust in Him can be forgiven of their sins. Explain that faith in Jesus gives us eternal life. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom 6:23.)

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Who is God?

God is our Creator and the King of everything.



THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

1 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Instruct kids to open their Bibles to Psalm 104:24. Lead them in reading the key passage aloud together. Tell kids that our key passage reminds us that God created the world by His wisdom. Explain that God knows exactly how everything He created should work. He knows how trees can grow from a seed, and He knows that people are most happy when we worship Him. Remind kids that God is a good God who created us to know and love Him.

Form kids into pairs and provide them with an index card. Lead kids to write the key passage on one side. Then on the other side invite kids to write a note of encouragement for their partner. For example, kids may write *God made you to know and love Him* or *God created you because He loves you*. Direct kids to give the index card to their partner and challenge kids to use it to memorize the key passage this week.

2 PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, thanking God for sending a Rescuer, Jesus, to save us from our sin.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

PERFECT IMAGE

On a dry erase board, write the words *Image of the Invisible God* and Colossians 1:15-17,19-20. Provide kids with a Bible and lead them to turn in their Bibles to Colossians 1:15-17,19-20. Assist kids who may need help finding Colossians. Direct kids to read the verses and explain how these verses are about Jesus, God's Son, who came to earth to rescue us from sin. Invite kids to choose two or three words about Jesus that stand out to them on the dry erase board. Provide extra dry erase markers so multiple kids can write at once.

Tell kids that these words in Colossians teach us that Jesus is the image of the invisible God. Share how this means He is God who became a human. Explain that since Jesus is God, He never sinned. Tell kids He always obeyed God's commands. Remind kids that unlike Adam, Jesus perfectly showed us what God is like. Tell kids that He obeyed God to the point of dying on the cross to save us from our sin.