

SIN ENTERED THE WORLD

GENESIS 2-3



CHRIST CONNECTION: Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Sin keeps us from God, but God had a plan. Jesus came to earth to die on the cross and come back to life to rescue people from sin.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

KEY PASSAGE: The earth is full of God's creatures. Psalm 104:24

STORY POINT: Sin is disobeying God.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

Genesis 2–3 recounts sin’s entrance into the world through Adam and Eve’s disobedience. From the earliest pages of the Old Testament, we are introduced to the gravity of sin and mankind’s need for redemption—a redemption promised by God through an offspring of Eve. A Rescuer would come to undo the curse of sin and crush the serpent.

How has God provided for His people since the beginning of time, from before the fall of man until this very moment? What evidence do we see of His kindness and care—especially in light of Christ?

God revealed His glory through Eden, a thriving garden where His people’s needs were lovingly met. His beautiful creation was all theirs for the taking with only one exception: “... 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” (Genesis 2:17). God’s command was not a means to withhold good. Rather, His command was for their good. That is, by obeying Him, they would actually find life.

When faced with the serpent’s lies, Adam and Eve failed to believe God’s words. They were enticed by the fruit’s appearance, the proposition to be like God, and the allurements of obtaining wisdom. Their eyes had indeed been opened to the knowledge of good and evil; however, because they disobeyed God’s command, they would now experience sin’s consequences and the reality of death.

Despite His people’s disobedience, God sought them in their sin. He provided them with clothing from animal skins to cover their nakedness and shame. However, the sacrifice of this animal was not a once-and-for-all event, but the foreshadowing of a greater death to repair this severed relationship between God and man—Christ’s sacrifice on the cross. God’s merciful promise in Genesis 3:15 provides all people with the opportunity to be freed from the curse of sin and find life in Christ. As Romans 5:19 reminds us, “For just as through one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so also through the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.”

While you ponder today’s truths, take time to meditate on God’s care for His people—from the beauty of creation to the mercy revealed in Jesus’ sacrifice. Consider God’s provision in redeeming His people and drawing close despite their sin. May you teach His truths clearly, your own faith made evident to the boys and girls learning from you today.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10-15 MINUTES

Greet preschoolers and open the session



LEARN

25-30 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



LOVE

Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel

30-40 MINUTES



LIVE

Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel



BONUS

60-65 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers for an additional hour



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Find toy food

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ toy food
- ☐ shallow bin
- ☐ shredded paper



LIVE

Make a fruit chain

- ☐ "Bible Verse Fruit" printable
- ☐ yarn
- ☐ painter's tape
- ☐ clothespins

Missions activity

- ☐ "Reese Family Photo" printable
- ☐ globe or world map



LEARN

Introduce the Bible story

- ☐ artificial flower arrangement

Review the Bible story

- ☐ artificial flower arrangement

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker



BONUS

Match flowers

- ☐ "Matching Flowers" printable

Plant a garden

- ☐ artificial flowers
- ☐ toy vegetables
- ☐ brown craft paper, 6-foot length
- ☐ child-size gardening tools

Paint a tree

- ☐ washable paint
- ☐ brushes
- ☐ water cups
- ☐ smocks
- ☐ plastic tablecloth
- ☐ paper towels for cleanup



LOVE

Make a sneaky snake

- ☐ 1-inch tissue paper squares, assorted bright colors

Dig in dirt

- ☐ shallow bin
- ☐ large towel
- ☐ fresh potting soil
- ☐ spoons or child-size gardening tools
- ☐ smocks



WELCOME Preschoolers

Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

FIND TOY FOOD

Hide toy food beneath shredded paper in a shallow bin. Display the big picture question poster and the Bible story picture poster in an open area of the room. Invite children to look in the bin to find a toy food item. Read the big picture question poster to the child and look together at the Bible story picture poster.

SAY “ I am so glad you came to church today! What did you find hidden in the sensory bin? I wonder what toy food has to do with our big picture question and our Bible story? Do you have any ideas? What do you think? **[Pause for children to respond.]** The first people, Adam and Eve, lived in a beautiful garden. God gave them one rule; it was about food. **God is our Creator and King.** He decides what is right and what is wrong. We must decide if we will obey His rules or not. Do you think Adam and Eve obeyed God’s rule or disobeyed? Let’s find out! ”





LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Gather all the children and instruct them to sit down. Arrange artificial flowers in a vase as you speak with the children looking on.

SAY “Aren’t these flowers pretty? These are not real, but I can just imagine how beautiful the real ones must be—especially growing in a big garden. In today’s Bible story, we will learn more about the garden God created for Adam and Eve.”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to Genesis 2-3 and tell the following Bible story:

SIN ENTERED THE WORLD

SAY “The first people, Adam and Eve, lived in God’s beautiful garden. God told Adam to work in the garden and take care of it. God said, “Eat from any tree in the garden, but do not eat from the tree in the middle of the garden. If you do, you will die.”

One day, a sneaky snake told Eve, “You will not die! If you eat from that tree, you will be like God.” The fruit looked yummy. Eve wanted to be like God, so she ate the fruit. Adam ate it too.

That evening, Adam and Eve heard God walking in the garden. They tried to hide from God. God asked Adam, “Did you eat from the tree that I told you not to eat from?”

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

Eve said, “The snake tricked me.”

Adam and Eve had disobeyed God. That is called sin. Because of their sin, bad things would happen. Life would be hard. But God promised that someone from Eve’s family would come to fix everything.

God made Adam and Eve leave the garden, but He still loved them.”

Christ Connection: Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Sin keeps us from God, but God had a plan. Jesus came to earth to die on the cross and come back to life to rescue people from sin.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Refer to the vase of artificial flowers from the introduction. Remind children of all the fruit trees in the garden. Ask children questions about the story:

1. Who did God allow to live in His beautiful garden? (Adam and Eve)
2. What one rule did God give about the tree in the middle of the garden? (Do not eat the fruit.)
3. Who told Eve that she would not die if she ate from the tree? (the snake)
4. What is disobeying God called? (**SIN IS DISOBEYING GOD.**)

SAY “ I am still thinking about these beautiful flowers. God gave Adam and Eve their own beautiful, perfect garden to live in. It was full of fruit trees and everything else they needed. God gave them one rule, too: ‘Do not eat from the tree in the middle of the garden.’ Sadly, Adam and Eve sinned by disobeying God’s command. Sin separates people from God, but God had a plan. Jesus came to earth as a man to live a sinless life, die on the cross, and come back to life to rescue people from sin. ”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “The Bear Went Over the Mountain”:

The earth is full of God’s creatures,
The earth is full of God’s creatures,
The earth is full of God’s creatures,
Psalm 104:24

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at Psalm 104:24. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Help children learn the key passage phrase. Lead children to stand up and sit down on alternating words as they say the Bible verse.

SAY “ God made a world filled with many wonderful things. This key passage is found in the Bible in the book of Psalms. The number of things in God’s creation are too many to count; His creation fills the earth. ”

6 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for His plan to rescue people from sin by sending Jesus.



LOVE

THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 PLAY A CHOICES GAME



Hang two sheets of construction paper on opposite sides of the room. Draw a happy face on one and a sad face on the other. Name choices children may face and direct them to walk to the happy face if it is a right choice and the sad face if it is wrong choice. (Examples: Take a toy from a friend; help someone pick up toys; hit someone; hug someone who is sad).

SAY “God gave Adam and Eve one rule: do not eat the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden. Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, they ate from the tree in the middle of the garden. **SIN IS DISOBEYING GOD.** Adam and Eve had to leave the garden, but God still loved them. He had a plan to send Jesus to rescue people from sin.”

2 MAKE A SNEAKY SNAKE

Give each child a piece of paper, glue stick, and tissue paper squares. Show the children how to glue the tissue paper squares in a row to make a snake. As children finish, write on each paper, Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Read aloud as you write the words.

SAY “These sneaky snake pictures you made remind me of the snake in the Bible. The snake lied to Eve. He said, ‘You will not die if you eat from that tree. You will be like God.’ Eve believed the snake. She wanted to be like God, so she ate the fruit and so did Adam. They sinned. **SIN IS DISOBEYING GOD,** and sin separates people from God. God planned to rescue people from sin. He sent Jesus to live a sinless life, die on the cross, and come back to life to rescue people from sin.”

3 DIG IN DIRT

Gather a shallow pan, fresh potting soil, small garden tools or spoons, and a towel. Spread the towel on the floor under the pan to catch spills. Help children put on smocks. Allow children to dig in the dirt, scoop it, mound it, etc. Retell the Bible story as children dig. Talk about how God gave Adam the special job of working in the garden. Comment that Adam took care of the garden God created.

SAY “God placed Adam and Eve in the garden to live. Adam was told to work in the garden and take care of it. The garden was beautiful. Everything God made is good. But Adam and Eve sinned. They disobeyed God. They had to leave the beautiful garden. Life was going to be harder for all people everywhere from then on. But God had a plan to send Jesus to rescue people from sin.”





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 MAKE A FRUIT CHAIN

Before the session, print and cut apart the “Bible Verse Fruit”. Use yarn, tape, and clothespins to create a line to hang the blank fruit on the string. Hide the fruit with the key passage in plain sight around the room. Invite the children to find the fruit and bring it to you. Help them find the match on the line and hang the fruit in order. Read the key passage together when finished.

SAY “Even though life for Adam and Eve changed when they had to leave the garden, it did not change the marvelous work God did when He made the world. His works are still countless. The earth is still full of His creatures.”

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY



Display a globe or world map. Help preschoolers find the country of Brazil in South America. Display the “Reese Family Photo” printable and point out the picture of Eric and Ramona Reese and their daughters, Gloria and Alicia.

SAY “Brazil is the largest country in South America. Many of the people there speak a language called Portuguese. To say “hello” in Portuguese, say, “Olá!” (OHL-ah) [Lead preschoolers to repeat the greeting.] Eric and Ramona Reese are missionaries in Brazil. They know that sin separates people from God, but God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue people from sin. Let’s pray that the people in Brazil who hear about Jesus will believe and follow Him.”

3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an allergy alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY “Adam and Eve sinned by disobeying God’s command. Sin separates people from God, but God had a plan. Jesus came to earth as a man to live a sinless life, die on the cross, and come back to life to rescue people from sin.”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.





BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 MATCH FLOWERS

Print and cut apart the “Matching Flowers” printable. Scatter the cards faceup on the floor and encourage children to find matches. Talk with preschoolers about the beautiful garden where Adam and Eve first lived. Remind them that Adam worked to take care of the garden.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to Genesis 2-3. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story.

SIN ENTERED THE WORLD

- Adam and Eve lived in God’s beautiful garden. God took good care of them.
- God gave Adam and Eve one rule: “Do not eat from the tree of the middle of the garden. If you do, you will die.”
- One day, a snake tricked Eve. He said, “You will not die. You will be like God.” So, Adam and Eve ate the fruit. They broke God’s one rule.
- Adam and Eve tried to hide from God, but God knew what they had done. God made Adam and Eve leave the garden, but He still loved them.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song below to the tune of “The Bear Went Over the Mountain”:

The earth is full of God’s creatures,
The earth is full of God’s creatures,
The earth is full of God’s creatures,
Psalm 104:24

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at Psalm 104:24. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Lead children to pretend to pick imaginary fruit from trees while saying the key passage phrase: “The earth is full of God’s creatures. Psalm 104:24.”

5 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for the beautiful world He made and for His plan to send Jesus to rescue us from sin.



BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 MAKE A PLAY DOUGH SNAKE



Give each child some play dough. Lead them to roll the play dough to make a long snake. Remind children of the sneaky snake and God's plan to rescue people from sin.

SAY “ Making these play dough snakes reminds me of our Bible story. The sneaky snake convinced Eve to eat the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden so she would be like God. Who else ate the fruit? (Adam) Adam and Eve sinned. **SIN IS DISOBEYING GOD.** Because Adam and Eve sinned, they had to leave the garden. But God promised to send Jesus to rescue people from sin. ”

7 PLANT A GARDEN

Set out artificial flowers, toy vegetables, toy gardening tools, and a 6-foot piece of brown craft paper for “dirt.” Lead children to pretend to care for a garden. Talk about the garden Adam and Eve lived in, how they worked to take care of it, and so on.

SAY “ Adam and Eve broke God's one rule. Then they tried to hide from God. God knew what they had done. Adam and Eve had to leave the garden, but God still loved them. He had a plan to rescue people from sin. God sent Jesus. ”

8 PAINT A TREE

Cover the table with a plastic tablecloth. Assist preschoolers in placing smocks over their clothes. Set out washable paint, paper, and brushes for children to paint a tree. Ask them what they think the tree in the middle of the garden may have looked like. Remind preschoolers that we don't really know what type of tree it was, but we know it had fruit on it that looked delicious.

SAY “ Eve listened to the sneaky snake. Eve saw that the fruit looked yummy. She wanted to be like God, so she ate some of the fruit. Eve gave some to Adam and he ate some, too. God knew what they did. They had sinned. **SIN IS DISOBEYING GOD.** Adam and Eve had to leave the garden. God loved them, though, and He planned to send Jesus to rescue people from sin. ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church's security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.