

Adam and Eve Sin

Genesis 3



Worship Theme:



God is holy.

Weaving Faith Into Life:



Children will confess their sins and seek God's forgiveness.

| Session Sequence | What Children Will Do | Supplies |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Let's Praise God! <i>(up to 25 minutes)</i> | Sing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Into the Bible" • "Got a Reason for Livin' Again" • "You Must Be Holy" (Leviticus 19:2) • "The Love of God" | KidsOwn Worship Kit: <i>KidsOwn Worship DVD</i> Classroom Supplies: Video equipment, new white socks |

Preschool

| Session Sequence | What Children Will Do | Supplies |
|--|---|--|
| 2 Let's Learn the Point! <i>(up to 25 minutes)</i> | Sky-High Try to reach "God" without help and with help. | Classroom Supplies: Colored index card, marker, tape |
| | Adam and Eve Experience the story, and think about making the right choice. | Classroom Supplies: 2 sheets of newsprint, marker, scissors, fruit leather |
| | Pure and Holy Compare holiness to a sheet of new, clean paper. | Classroom Supplies: 2 sheets of newsprint, 1 marker per child |

| Session Sequence | What Children Will Do | Supplies |
|--|---|--|
| 2 Let's Learn the Point! <i>(up to 25 minutes)</i> | * Whose Fault? Explore Adam and Eve's actions to see why it resulted in punishment and separation from God. | Classroom Supplies: 1 Bible per pair of children |
| | * Clean and Forgiven Compare erased marks on paper to clean paper. | Classroom Supplies: White paper, pencil, and eraser for each child |
| | * Holy Like a Cotton Ball Contemplate Exodus 15:11 while they make a poster about holiness. | Classroom Supplies: Bible, glue, paper plate, dark poster board, pencil, sterile white cotton balls (3 per child) in original bags |

| Session Sequence | What Children Will Do | Supplies |
|---|--|--|
| 3 Let's Pray! <i>(up to 10 minutes)</i> | The Offering Offer their gifts to God. | Classroom Supplies: Offering bowl |
| | Prayer Litany Pray a prayer based on Romans 3:23. | |
| | A Time to Confess Listen to Psalm 31:1-3, 5, confess their sins, and sing "Worship Christ" (1 Peter 3:15). | KidsOwn Worship Kit: <i>KidsOwn Worship DVD</i> Classroom Supplies: Bible, video equipment, newsprint, tape, marker |

* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together.

Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Let's Learn the Point!

Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.

Adam and Eve Sin

Genesis 3

The first thing we read about in this passage is the craftiness of the serpent. Created good by God, somehow this creature was being used by Satan to deceive the first humans. Perhaps its craftiness was a natural trait, and Satan chose it for his use because of that.

The serpent's first question demonstrated his craftiness. He must have known what God had really commanded, but asking the question made Eve begin to think. She likely began to wonder, "Why did God let us eat from all the trees but this one?" The serpent, knowing he had made Eve question God, proceeded to take his deception further, suggesting that God had lied to her and insinuating that God didn't have Eve's best interests in mind. It must have made sense to Eve, because she took the bait and ate the fruit.

Sometimes people lay more blame on Eve than on Adam because she ate first. But in reality, more responsibility should fall on Adam because he had heard God speak the words of prohibition. He wasn't deceived by Satan's agent, the serpent. He simply took the fruit from Eve, apparently without much question. He should have known better.

As always, temptation promised more than the sin delivered. Adam and Eve didn't "become like God" but instead were hit in the face with reality: They had disobeyed God. Suddenly their nakedness, which had been natural when all was good, seemed so wrong. And as usually happens with us, one sin led to another: They decided to hide from God.

God had every right to be angry. Most of us would have been. The beings God had created and provided for so bountifully had turned against him. They had refused to trust God. But God came looking for them, knowing well

what had happened. Here God showed his character and established what would become a pattern: When people sin and turn against God, God seeks them out and draws them to himself. God loves his people—no matter what.

God's constant love for us doesn't mean we can avoid the consequences of sin. The rest of this passage relates the consequences of Adam and Eve's sin, which from that point on fell upon all humanity. However, the banishing of Adam and Eve from the Garden (Genesis 3:22-24) was not so much for punishment as for their protection. Now that they had sinned, sin would be part of them as long as they lived. Should they eat of the tree of life in the Garden, they would live forever under the power of sin. Only physical death could save them from such a life of torture. And God had a plan to save them from spiritual death, a plan that likely is hinted at in Genesis 3:15: Jesus would come and experience death but defeat Satan forever!

Devotion for Leaders

God is amazing. God seeks us and loves us even when we betray him. And he gives us forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus' sacrifice. Praise him!

Weaving Faith Into Your Life: When have you battled with sin? What was the outcome? God has given us an example to follow and a source of strength and support—in Jesus. He can help us be faithful to God. Jesus, help us resist sin and be faithful followers of God's laws. You are our rock and our strength to triumph over sin.

Why We Worship for Leaders

“Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee, though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see; only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, perfect in pow’r, in love, and purity.”

These words from the classic hymn majestically describe a most holy God. It takes a bit of thinking to understand what the term *holy* means as it applies to God. That’s because as humans we tend to grade ourselves on a bell curve. There are the outstanding few, but most of us are clumped in the middle. And if all of us are a little tainted by imperfection, all the better because we judge by the average; as long as we’re not worse than most of society, we reason that we’re pretty good. But God judges more on a pass-fail system. God’s holy; we’re not. In today’s Scripture, Adam and Eve demonstrate how one wrong decision makes all the difference between God and us. Their story marks the beginning of a holy God’s loving plan to woo back his people and restore them to wholeness and holiness. Introduce your children’s church to a holy God who wants to make them holy, too.

Easy Prep for Leaders

Let’s Praise God!—Make sure your video equipment is ready.

Holy Like a Cotton Ball—Use a pencil to lightly outline the word *holy* on a piece of dark poster board. Pour some white glue on a paper plate, and set it aside.

Preschool Activities—Refer to the preschool pages for preparations.

1 Let’s Praise God!

Play KidsOwn Worship music videos as children arrive. Have volunteers stand at the entrance of the area to greet others as they arrive.

Say **Hello, everyone! Today we’re going to worship God because God is holy. Holy isn’t a word we use much except in church. When we say that God is holy, we mean that God is perfect and pure. We mean God is better and more important than we are. God is so important that, if we put all the important kings and presidents and rulers of our world in the same room, God would be the king and president and ruler over all of them. That’s because God is perfect and he deserves our praise. Let’s sing a song to tell God that we want to get into the Bible, his Word, because he is King. Think about God’s holiness while we sing this song.**

 Sing “Into the Bible.”

Say **Part of what we mean when we say that God is holy is that God is one of a kind. God is the only God there is, and he’s powerful, loving, and holy. Let’s sing “Got a Reason for Livin’ Again” because God’s holiness is our reason for living! Our holy God loves us. Let’s sing!**

Worship Leader Tip

It's very important that the sock judge restrict his or her comments to the condition of the socks. Children should not feel put down or made fun of by this activity. Choose a sock judge who will be sensitive to children's feelings.

▶ Sing "Got a Reason for Livin' Again."

Say ▶ Let's have a contest to help us understand God's holiness. We'll see who has the cleanest socks. If you have white socks on, come up to the front. We'll compare everyone's socks to our special pair of holy socks.

Have kids with white socks on come to the front of the room and take off their shoes. Have them sit on the floor and show the soles of their feet to the rest of the kids. Choose an adult helper to be the "sock judge." Give the sock judge a pair of brand-new socks.

Say ▶ Sock Judge, these "holy" socks are perfect. They're brand-new, and they've never been worn. They've been sealed in plastic, so not even the dust in the air has touched them. Please compare these kids' socks to the holy socks. Tell us if any of these socks are as perfectly clean as the holy socks.

Have the sock judge compare everyone's socks to the special pair of holy socks and rank the socks on a 10-point scale, 10 being the paragon of holy perfection and 1 being the epitome of stinky filth. Have the sock judge make comments such as, "I see traces of dust bunnies on these socks," or "The whiteness of these socks is marred by an abundance of playground filth." None of the comments should be directed toward the wearer of the socks: The sock judge should confine all comments to the relative cleanliness of the socks. Also make sure the sock judge doesn't give any of the socks a rating higher than five.

Thank the children, and have them take their shoes and return to their seats.

- Ask** ▶
- **Why do you think none of the socks were as clean as the holy socks?** (They've been used; they're not perfect.)
 - **How is that like God compared to us? Why aren't we as holy as God?** (God is perfect, and we're not; God is the creator, and we're the created ones.)
 - **Why is God's holiness a reason to worship him?** (Nothing is as amazing and holy as God is; God is better than anything else.)

Say ▶ God alone is completely perfect and holy. The Bible says, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." It may seem strange to us that the writer repeated the word *holy* three times. But that's a way of saying God is really, really holy. It's like saying, "Big, bigger, biggest." To say, "You Must Be Holy" (Leviticus 19:2) is to say that God is better and more perfect than anything else. For thousands of years, people have recognized that God is holy. For more than 100 years, people have sung the song "You Must Be Holy" (Leviticus 19:2) in church. This song mentions some great things about God. Before we sing, let's make sure we understand the words.

- Ask** ▶
- **What does the word *lord* mean? Why do we call God that?** (Ruler; God's in control.)
 - **What does *merciful* mean?** (Kind; loving; caring.)
 - **What is the Trinity?** (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; the three persons of God.)

Help the children define these words. You can explain that a lord is a master or someone with authority whom we obey; *almighty* means having unlimited power; *merciful* means kind and compassionate; and the Trinity explains that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Say ▶ **Let's sing about God's holiness!**

▶ Sing "You Must Be Holy" (Leviticus 19:2).

Say ▶ **When God created Adam and Eve, he created them without sin. They were as clean as brand-new socks. But before long, Adam and Eve did something God asked them not to do, just like all the rest of us have done things God doesn't want us to do. Sin makes us dirty on the inside; it makes us the opposite of holy. God is perfectly holy, and he can't have a perfect friendship with people who are dirty with sin just like you wouldn't want to put stinky, dirty socks in the same drawer as your fresh, clean, brand-new socks. A holy God could have decided he didn't want any friendship with us because of our sin. But God loves us so much that he came up with a plan to clean away the dirt of our sin. God's forgiveness cleans our sin. We're God's children, and he loves us enough to forgive us. Let's sing about God's love for each one of us.**

▶ Sing "The Love of God."

Then ask one of the children to pray aloud for the group.

2 **Let's Learn the Point!**

Preschool Activities, pages 39-40

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Give the Preschool Activities page to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let's Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (*) activities. They will work well with both elementary and preschool children.

Elementary Activities

**** Whose Fault?***

Say ▶ **The Bible story that goes with today's worship session is about God's first human creations, Adam and Eve. Let's explore what happened.**

Have kids form pairs, and give each pair a Bible. Pair older children with nonreaders.

Say In your pair, choose one person to be Adam and one person to be Eve. Read Genesis 3:1-24. Then figure out if your character did anything wrong, what he or she did that was wrong, and why it was wrong.

Give the children five minutes to read and discuss. You may want adult helpers to wander among the children and help them keep on task. After you've given kids time for discussion,

- Ask**
- **What happened, and who was guilty?** (Both were guilty because they disobeyed; Eve ate the fruit first; Adam followed bad peer pressure.)
 - **Knowing what you know about God's holiness, why was leaving the garden an appropriate punishment?** (Adam and Eve were sinful, so they couldn't be near the perfect God; sin makes us unholy, but God is holy.)
 - **What do you think God felt when he punished Adam and Eve?** (He was disappointed in them; it made God sad to punish them.)

Say Adam and Eve both did wrong. They disobeyed a command from God. God told them they had to leave the garden because their sin made them guilty. God is holy, and he can't have a perfect relationship with people who have sinned. So we need God's forgiveness to heal our friendship with him. Let's find out how God forgives us through a relationship with Jesus.

* *Clean and Forgiven*

Say Adam and Eve sinned when they disobeyed God. The Bible says we're all sinners. It says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). That means we all fall short of perfection.

- Ask**
- **What are some of the sins we commit—sins that keep us from being holy?** (Lying; cheating; disobeying our parents; being mean to other kids.)

Provide paper, pencils, and erasers. Have kids fold a piece of paper in half and tear it into two pieces.

Say On one of your papers, I want you to write or draw how your sin makes you feel. You might draw a broken heart or a sad-looking face.

After kids have drawn on their papers,

- Ask**
- **How does sin make you feel?** (Guilty; angry; upset; sad.)
 - **What can you do when you do sin?** (I can ask Jesus to forgive me; I can decide to not do that again.)

(continued on page 41)

Adam and Eve Sin

Session 3

Genesis 3

Worship Theme:



God is holy.

Easy Prep for Leaders

Sky-High—Write “God” on an index card or piece of construction paper, and tape it to a wall about 6 or 7 feet from the floor. Be sure the card is out of the children’s reach but within your reach.

Adam and Eve—Draw a tree shape on each of two sheets of newsprint. Also cut up pieces of fruit leather. Set the two sheets of newsprint on the floor, and scatter the fruit leather pieces among the branches of both trees.

Using Theo

Consider using Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet today in these ways:

- Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
- Have Theo try to reach God’s goodness in the “Sky-High” activity.
- See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit written for today’s worship session.



Sky-High

Gather the children around you.

Say Show me with your hands how good you are. **Are you this good?** Hold your hand about waist high. **Are you this good?** Hold your hand about chin high. Have children show you how good they think they are.

Point to the card you taped on the wall.

Say Let’s pretend that this card is how good God is. He’s really high up. The card is higher than me! Can any of you jump and reach the goodness of God? Let children try jumping to touch the card on the wall.

I have an idea. Maybe if I lift you up, you can reach the goodness of God!

Lift up each child one by one to touch the card. When everyone has had a chance to touch it,

Say We’re not good enough by ourselves to reach God. So God sent Jesus to help us, just as I helped you! Because of Jesus, we can be forgiven, and we can be friends with God. Let’s do some more jumping now, but let’s jump up and down to thank Jesus for helping us get to God! Thank you, Jesus!

Adam and Eve

Gather the children in a circle around the two newsprint “trees.”

Say Adam and Eve were the first people to live in the world. God created them and gave them a beautiful garden to live in. There were fields and meadows with colorful flowers. Let’s smell the flowers. Encourage children to pretend to smell flowers. **Don’t they smell good! There were streams and brooks with clear, cold water to drink. Let’s touch the water.** Encourage children to pretend to touch the water. **It’s so cold! There were animals and birds, too. What’s your favorite animal? Let me know by making the sound your favorite animal makes.** (Pause.)

In that beautiful garden, there were also trees—lots and lots of trees with tall trunks

and green leaves that rustled in the breeze. **Let’s listen to the leaves rustling.** Encourage children to pretend to touch the leaves. **Everything in the garden was beautiful and good, and Adam and Eve were very happy. But there was one tree in particular in the beautiful garden that God warned Adam and Eve about.** Indicate one of the newsprint trees. **The tree was called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Isn’t that a strange name for a tree? God told Adam that he could eat the fruit from any tree in the garden.** Indicate the other tree. **But God told Adam that he must stay away from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.** Indicate the first tree.

Adam and Eve (continued)

Say One day a snake talked to Eve. He said, “See how pretty the fruit on that tree looks? Why don’t you take a bite? It’ll taste good. Don’t listen to God. Go ahead. It’s OK.” Should Eve eat the fruit? (Pause.)

Eve wanted the fruit. It looked good. So even though God told her not to, she took a piece of fruit from the tree and took a bite. Take a piece of fruit leather from the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” Then she gave some to Adam. Take another piece of “fruit” from the tree. He took a bite, too.

Ask • Should Adam and Eve have eaten the fruit? Why not?

- Have you ever done something you weren’t supposed to do?
- What happened?

Say Later God asked Adam, “Did you eat the fruit I told you not to eat?” Then Adam and Eve told God what they did. God was not happy. He said,

“You disobeyed me. You’ll have to leave my garden.” It was a sad day when Adam and Eve left God’s beautiful garden. They were sorry they had disobeyed God.

Let’s show God that we want to obey him by eating the fruit from the right tree.

ALLERGY ALERT



Be aware that some children have allergies that are dangerous. Know your children, and consult with parents about allergies their children may have. Also be sure to carefully read food labels as hidden ingredients may cause allergy-related problems.

Encourage the children each to “pick” a piece of fruit from the tree. Enjoy the snack together, and talk with the children about what they can do to obey God.

Pure and Holy

Put a piece of newsprint on the floor in the middle of the children.

Say Seeing a big piece of clean white paper like this makes me want to draw a picture. God is clean and pure like this piece of white paper.

If we never did anything wrong, we’d be clean and pure, too. When we do wrong things like Adam and Eve did, we call that sin. With your finger, poke a hole in the paper.

Our sins are like this hole in the paper. When the paper has holes in it, it’s not as pretty.

Wave your hand in the air if you ever said no to your mom or dad when they told you to do something. That’s disobeying, isn’t it? Disobeying is wrong; it’s a sin.

God doesn’t sin, but we do. Poke a hole in the paper if you’ve ever disobeyed your mom or dad.

Ask the following questions. Each time a child acknowledges having done the action, have the child poke a hole in the paper.

- Ask**
- Have you ever taken something away from someone because you wanted it?
 - Have you ever lied to your mom or dad?
 - Have you ever hit someone who hit you?

Say Look at our paper. Would we want to use our paper to make something pretty now? No, it’s all ruined. But I have good news! God forgives us when we sin. Forgiveness is like getting a new piece of paper! God’s forgiveness helps us to be holy as God is holy.

Put the paper with the holes away, and set out a new sheet of newsprint.

Say When God forgives us, we get to start all over, fresh and clean.

Set out markers, and have children make a picture to thank God for forgiving us.

(continued from page 38)

Say ➤ **God forgave the sins of Adam and Eve. And God can forgive our sins. God sent his Son, Jesus, to allow us to be forgiven. When we have a friendship with Jesus, he forgives our sins.**

Have children erase the pictures or words on their papers. Then ask them to look closely at the papers and compare the erased pieces to the clean pieces.

Ask ➤ • **Can you tell if anything was on your erased paper?** (Yes, it's smudged; yes, there's a tiny mark still.)

Say ➤ **Even the best eraser will leave signs of the pencil marks on your paper. Now look at your clean sheet. When God forgives us, it's as if our sin never happened in God's eyes. God only sees us as forgiven, as clean as your clean sheet of paper.**

Pray together, thanking God for forgiving our sins.

* *Holy Like a Cotton Ball*

Open your Bible to Exodus 15:11, and set it near you. Put the cotton balls beside the plate of glue you prepared earlier.

Hold up one bag of cotton balls.

Say ➤ **Today we've talked about God's holiness. God has never sinned and will never sin. God is clean all the way through. This bag of cotton balls reminds me of God's holiness.** Point to the word *sterile* that's printed on the bag.

Ask ➤ • **What does the word *sterile* mean?** (Clean; pure.)

Say ➤ **God is completely clean and pure just like these cotton balls.** Hold up the poster board you prepared before the session. **We're going to use these cotton balls to fill in the word *holy* on this sheet of poster board.**

I'm going to hand out cotton balls. Each of you will get three cotton balls, which will represent the three characteristics of God listed in Exodus 15:11. Listen while I read the verse. Read aloud Exodus 15:11.

God is majestic in holiness and awesome in glory, and he works wonders. These three things describe how God is different from us. Part of being holy is being set apart. God is set apart; there's no one like him. While you're waiting for your turn, let your three cotton balls help you think about how God is majestic in holiness, how God is awesome in glory, and how God works wonders.

Invite the children to come up and glue their three cotton balls to the poster board. Continue until the word *holy* is completely filled in with cotton balls.

Say ➤ **Let's praise God for his holiness with our offering and prayers.**

Worship Leader Tip

You'll also need cotton balls in one of the preschool activities during Worship Session 5. Save several handfuls of cotton balls for that activity.

3 Let's Pray!

The Offering

Say ▶ **There's nothing that God needs. But still we give our gifts and offerings to God.**

Ask ▶ • **Why do you think we give gifts to God?** (To worship him; to thank God for everything he does for us.)

Say ▶ **One reason we give to God is because giving a gift is a way to show honor and respect to an important person. Let's honor God by giving him our gifts right now.**

Pass around the offering bowl. Then put it aside.

Prayer Litany

Pray this prayer based on Romans 3:23.

Say ▶ **Let's pray this prayer about God's holiness.** Have the children repeat your words after you pray each phrase.

Pray ▶ **God, we all have sinned,** (pause) **and we fall short of your glory.** (Pause.) **But God, you have never sinned.** (Pause.) **That means you are holy.** (Pause.) **You love us even though we do wrong.** (Pause.) **We worship you, God.** (Pause.) **In Jesus' name, amen.**

A Time to Confess

Tape a sheet of newsprint on the wall at the kids' eye level.

Say ▶ **When we ask for God's forgiveness, our relationship with God is restored.**

Read aloud Psalm 32:1-3, 5 from an easy-to-understand version of the Bible.

The *Hands-On Bible* puts it like this:

"Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven,
whose sin is put out of sight!

Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of guilt,
whose lives are lived in complete honesty!

When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away,
and I groaned all day long...

Finally, I confessed all my sins to you
and stopped trying to hide my guilt.

I said to myself, 'I will confess my rebellion to the Lord.'
And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone."

Say ▶ **Let's confess our sins. Use this marker to make a mark on the paper. While you're waiting for your turn, silently ask God to forgive you.**

Continue until everyone who wants to has made a mark on the paper.

Say **It feels good to confess and to know that God forgives us. When God forgives us, we become completely clean.** Wad up the paper, and throw it away.

Let's pray together.

Pray **God, we know that you are holy. We aren't holy. We sin. When we sin, we know we need to confess our sin and let you forgive us and make things right between us. God, we know that you faithfully forgive us every time we ask you to. Thank you for forgiving us. We love you, Lord. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Say **Let's sing this song as a prayer to God.**

 Sing "Worship Christ" (1 Peter 3:15).