

Unit 1 • Session 3
Sin Entered the World

Bible Passage:
Genesis 3

Story Point: Adam and Eve broke God’s law, and their sin separated them from God.

Key Passage:
Colossians 1:16b-17

Big Picture Question:
Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

INTRODUCE THE STORY
(10–15 minutes)

Teach THE STORY
(25–30 minutes)

APPLY THE STORY
(25–30 minutes)

Leader Bible Study

Adam and Eve enjoyed all that was good in the garden of Eden. The Lord gave them only one restriction: “You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,” and the punishment for disobeying was severe: “You will certainly die” (Gen. 2:17).

Before the fall, Adam and Eve enjoyed a loving, two-way relationship with God. The garden was a true paradise. God filled the garden with good gifts so that they might enjoy them and give thanks to God. This glorifies God. All of that changed when Adam and Eve gave in to the serpent’s temptation. Eve believed the lie that leads many of us to sin: Maybe God is holding out on me.

Adam and Eve desired something more: the wisdom the fruit offered. But when their eyes were opened, they were aware of their nakedness and they felt ashamed. Surely the Lord’s heart broke at their act of disobedience and rebellion. Because of their sin, He cast them out of the garden. Though they did not die right away, sin’s effect was immediate and thorough. Their lives and their children’s lives—and the lives of all of mankind— would be forever affected by their choice.

God did not leave Adam and Eve without hope. He promised that one of Eve’s descendants would strike the head of the serpent. (Gen. 3:15) Each generation after Eve hoped that one of their children would be the promised One—the One who would crush the head of the snake and put an end to the curse over creation.

Sin is a big problem that needs a big solution. At just the right time, God sent His Son into the world, born as a baby. Matthew 1:21 says, “You are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” As the kids you teach become increasingly aware of the bad news—that we are all sinners from birth—rejoice with them over the good news: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1 Tim. 1:15).

9:45 Large Group room

Introduce the Story

SESSION TITLE: Sin Entered the World

Bible Passage: Genesis 3

Story Point: Adam and Eve broke God's law, and their sin separated them from God.

Key Passage: Colossians 1:16b-17

Big Picture Question: Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to help new kids connect to your group. As kids arrive, ask them about ways they struggle to obey their parents.

Say • We all make wrong choices sometimes, and none of us obey all the time. We have sin in our lives, but where does sin come from? When did sin begin? Today, we will learn more.

In Small Group room

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

Before class, print the “**Key Passage Flip Cards**” **double sided** and cut apart the cards. Distribute one flip card to each kid and help her fold it in half. Instruct the kids to **fill in** the missing words on each side, progressing through the levels from one to four. Each time they move on to the next number, they should fold the previous side underneath and attempt the harder level without peeking at previous levels.

Say • Our key passage is about God the Son. Everything was created to bring glory to God. Sin does not bring glory to God, and God is right to punish sin. We must understand the ugliness of sin to understand why we need Jesus. God sent Jesus to die on the cross and rise again to save us from sin.

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

Distribute a **Bible** to each kid. Help kids understand how to use the table of contents to find Genesis 3. Explain that Genesis is the first book in the Bible. It is the start of the Old Testament and part of the Law, the first five books of the Bible.

Read Genesis 3 to your kids, or review the Bible story using the bolded words on the Bible story page. Then ask the following questions, guiding discussion as suggested.

What was God's one command to Adam and Eve? (*You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, Gen. 2:17*)

What did the serpent suggest would really happen if they disobeyed God? (*They would become wise like God, Gen. 3:5*)

Why do you think Adam and Eve disobeyed God? *Lead the discussion toward the truth that Adam and Eve began to doubt that God's will for them was best. They thought they knew better than God did, and chose to disobey Him.*

What are some of the reasons we choose sin today? *Guide kids to see that we choose sin for much the same reason; we tend to think we understand more than we do, and we desire things we think will be good for us.*

What does sin do to us and to our relationships with God and other people? *Lead the discussion toward the idea that sin damages our view of God, His creation, and ourselves. It makes us selfish and cruel, and damages our relationships with God and other people.*

Say • At first, it may seem that God's command to Adam and Eve was small: “Don't eat the fruit from a certain tree.” Sounds easy. How did Adam and Eve mess up that? But tied up in that command was another bit of instruction: trust that God knows what is best.

God did not command them not to eat the fruit just to see if they could obey Him, He commanded them not to eat the fruit because the knowledge of good and evil was a heavy weight that He did not want Adam or Eve to carry. God knows what is best. **Adam and Eve broke God's law, and their sin separated them from God.**

Activity choice (10 minutes) - Ink blotch art

Make **ink blotches on various sheets of paper**. Provide each kid with an ink blotch and invite them to use **crayons** to turn it into a piece of art.

Say • **Adam and Eve broke God's law, and their sin separated them from God.** Thankfully, that is not the end of the story. Despite sin and evil entering the world, God had a plan all along to show His love and goodness through Jesus. God can turn even the ugliest mess of sin into something beautiful.

Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute a **sheet of paper to each child**. Ask the kids to **write** about or **draw** a picture to answer the following questions:

What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?

What does this story teach me about myself?

Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the activity page and any other pages home with the kids so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.

We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.