

Adam And Eve Are Tempted

Genesis 3: 1-24

MEMORY VERSE

2 CORINTHIANS 11:3

But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Two bananas and a chalkboard.

Masking tape.

Three different colored 12” pieces of yarn per child in your class.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Do Not Eat the Bananas!

Pick two children to participate in this activity. Whisper to one of the two children that no matter what you say, do not eat the banana. Have pre-written on the chalkboard the words: “Do Not Eat the Bananas.” Give each child a banana.

Encourage the children to eat the bananas. Think of everything you can say to get them to take a bite. The one that you did not give the instruction to before class will not, but the other child probably will. After the one has eaten the banana, point out that the chalkboard says not to. Ask the one child who did not eat why they did not. Explain that in today’s story we will be learning about the time when Eve was tempted by Satan to eat the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil. She ate the fruit and sin entered the world. She then gave the fruit to Adam who also disobeyed God. There is much we can learn from this story about why we are sinners and how that God still loves us and has a plan for us. **God is gracious to sinful man.**

LESSON TIME!

We have been learning about God's wonderful creation. God's creation was beautiful and perfect. Man was given everything he needed to have a blessed and wonderful life. The only restriction he had was that he was not to eat of a certain fruit in the midst of the Garden of Eden. We will look closely at what happened when Satan came and tricked Eve and, consequently, both Adam and Eve sinned.

This is an important story because it explains a lot of things about why bad things happen in the world today, including why we do bad things. It also shows us why we need a savior, Jesus! **God is gracious to sinful man.**

GENESIS 3:1-6

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;

but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

And the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

In the preceding Bible lessons, we learned about God's perfect creation and His wonderful provision for man, His prize creation. Now, we see a dark cloud has come upon the scene. This is the story of how sin entered the world and destroyed all that God had made. We see man going from a place of constant fellowship with God to separation and despair—from spiritual life to spiritual death. It is sad to read of man's fall, but we also see in this story how God has provided a way for man to be saved from his sin. Even in the fall of man, we see clearly the love of God for His creation. **God is gracious to sinful man.**

We are introduced to the serpent, Satan. He is described as more subtle than any beast God made. Satan came to Eve and planted doubt in her mind by questioning God's Word. Note that he changes what God really said. Satan said, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

God had told Adam that He could eat of every tree in the garden, except for one, the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Satan twisted God's Word, stating it in such a way that Eve would feel God was keeping something away from her, that she was missing out on something. Satan will try to trick us today into thinking that somehow we are "missing out" because we follow the Lord.

In her response, Eve added that they may not even touch it, lest they die. God never said they could not "touch" it. Be careful not to add to God's Word. Satan then responded, "You will not surely die." It is important to remember that Satan is a liar and he will lie to us in order to cause us to sin.

The third trick that Satan played was to tell Eve that God was keeping them from this fruit because He knew that they would be like Him, knowing good and evil. Again he is making her think that she is missing out on something—that God is afraid that they might know everything He knows. This is also a very dangerous trick. Many false religions cause people to believe that they will “be like God.” Instead they lead people far away from God as Satan is doing here. We must be careful of Satan and his tricks.

After shattering Eve’s faith in the authority and the goodness of God, the serpent leaves the woman to ponder over his words. As she looks at the tree, she sees it is good for food, appealing to fleshly senses; and that it was pleasant to make one wise, appealing to pride. We see that Satan works from the outside to the inside, but God's work always begins in our hearts.

What can we apply to our lives from this? One of Satan's ways to destroy us is by tricking us. Sin can be very "pleasant to the eyes", appearing to be very good for us, but the end result is death. Eve was near the forbidden tree by herself. Where was Adam? Notice the serpent spoke to Eve when she was alone. There are times when being by ourselves gives the devil an advantage; but being with other Christians gives us strength and safety.

When God has forbidden something to us, let us stay as far away from it as possible (Proverbs 4:14,15). We see that Eve was deceived, but Adam was not; he chose to sin. Both sinned against God (I Timothy 2:14). We see that Satan planted the seeds of doubt and denial of God's Word. Then Eve was deceived and took of the fruit. Adam then took the fruit from Eve. Adam as an act of his will made a choice to sin against God’s command.

GENESIS 3:7

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

Their eyes were opened. They realized that they had sinned against God. They knew something terrible had happened and their relationship with God would never be the same. They also realized that they were naked and needed covering. This is an interesting picture of sin. Sin causes shame. Adam and Eve made themselves clothing out of fig leaves. Man desires that his sins be covered.

Sometimes people attempt to cover their sin instead of coming to the Lord in repentance to receive His forgiveness. They will try to do all kinds of things to make themselves look good. They will work very hard to “make” themselves “acceptable” to God. The problem is that they can never make themselves acceptable to God. God is the one who makes man righteous—through our faith in Jesus who took the punishment for man’s sins at the cross. We will learn more about that later. **God is gracious to sinful man.**

Where Are You?

Play a “mental” game of hide and seek. Divide the children in your class into pairs. Tell them they must each take turns imaginably hiding anywhere in the room. The other child must try to guess where the hiding place is, responding to whether he is getting “warmer” or “colder.” Give everyone a chance to “hide.”

Explain to the class that Adam and Eve tried to hide from God once, but He knew where they were; and He always sees where we are.

GENESIS 3:8-13

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Here we see that the self-made coverings did not remove from Adam and Eve the guilt of their sin; for when they heard the voice of the Lord, they "hid themselves" from Him. They knew that something happened to their relationship with God, otherwise they would not have hid in fear. God knows everything. He knew what Adam and Eve had done; but in loving mercy, God sought them out and asked them questions, giving them the opportunity to acknowledge their guilt. **God is gracious to sinful man.**

The first question, "Where are you?" indicates that the perfect fellowship between God and man had been broken. We see God here searching for man. We see Adam and Eve hiding from their Creator. Adam, in fear, failed to give God the reason for his hiding. God continued to question. Adam finally acknowledged his guilt, but attempted to blame his sin on the woman and even on God. "The *woman* whom *You* gave to be with me, *she* gave me of the tree, and I ate."

We see that the relationship between man and woman is quite different before the fall than after sin entered the world. Adam now blames her for his sin. Since sin entered the world, every one of us sins (see Romans 5). Sadly, we often try to blame others for our sin.

Eve, when questioned, does the same thing that Adam does and tries to lay the blame upon the serpent who beguiled her. We are responsible for our own sin and must deal with it before God. How thankful we are that God has made provision through Jesus Christ for our forgiveness as we acknowledge our sin and turn away from it. I John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." We cannot run away from the guilt of our sin; we cannot blame others for our sin or seek to cover it. It is so much better to just admit our sin to God and ask for His forgiveness.

Excuses

Have your children think of excuses for doing something wrong. Give different scenarios for the children to discuss and come up with excuses. For example, if Billy was told not to play ball near the neighbor's yard and he disobeyed and broke a window; he might say that the yard was not big enough or the wind carried the ball.

Ask the class what Billy should have said. The correct answer for every situation that we disobey in is, "I disobeyed and I'm sorry. I was wrong." Explain how Adam made excuses and blamed someone else when he should have taken responsibility.

GENESIS 3:14-19

So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life.

Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field.

In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return."

The serpent receives a direct curse from God. In verse 15, we see **God is gracious to sinful man**. Before God acted in judgment, He showed His mercy; before casting Adam and Eve from the garden, He gave them a promise and a hope. He tells them that One shall come and bruise the head of the enemy, Satan. It was by a woman's choice that sin entered; and by a woman, shall come the Savior of the world—Jesus.

We see in these verses the beginnings of the promise and prophecy of Jesus, the Messiah. The promised Seed would come from woman. Jesus was born of a virgin (the seed of a woman). That prophecy was fulfilled 2000 years ago. The promise here is that although Satan will bruise the heel of Christ (a reference to His suffering on the cross); ultimately, Jesus would crush his head (a reference to the final defeat and victory over Satan).

Verses 15-19 also contain the Second Covenant or promise that God gives to man. It gives the conditions that would exist after the fall of man. The conditions are 1) the serpent is cursed; 2) the first promise of the Redeemer; 3) the changed state of the woman; childbirth in pain, sorrow in motherhood, and the headship of the man; 4) the tending of the soil in Eden to the burdensome labor outside of it due to the earth being cursed; 5) the inevitable sorrow of life; 6) the certainty of physical death to Adam and all his descendants.

Although we see the consequences and suffering that result from sin entering the world, we also see the mercy and grace of God. God could have destroyed man at the very instant man first sinned--He did not. He could have never given them any hope; instead, He promised a Savior. Today, He does not destroy man at the moment of his disobedience, but allows him to live, leaving him the opportunity to be forgiven and restored to a relationship with Him.

Death did come that day that Adam and Eve sinned. It was not a physical death, but a spiritual death. It was the death of a very special spiritual relationship that God had with Adam and Eve. Their sin separated them from that relationship, and they became spiritually dead. We are all in the same condition (Romans 6:23). But through faith in Christ Jesus, we can be made spiritually alive and enter into a relationship with God. What wonderful news! **God is gracious to sinful man.**

GENESIS 3:20-21

And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

Adam now gave his wife a name. He calls her Eve, which means, "live." She is indeed the "mother of all living." This is an act of faith on Adam's part. In the face of judgment and death, Adam expresses his belief that life will continue despite their sin. Although life would now be very different for both of them.

In verse 21, we see a perfect picture of salvation for the sinner. **God is gracious to sinful man.** The Lord God clothed Adam and Eve in animal skins, which meant that an animal had to have been slain. Hebrews 9:22 tells us that "without shedding of blood there is no remission for sins." There must be the death of the innocent in the place of the guilty. Throughout the Old Testament, the sacrificing of animals is a picture of Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross that would one day be the salvation of man. The perfect sacrifice of Jesus would not only cover, but completely remove the sins of those who put their trust in Him.

Adam and Eve did nothing for the covering of their sin; God did it all. He furnished the skins, made them into coats, and clothed Adam and Eve. The Bible says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast" (Ephesians 2:8).

God Does It All

Mark two sections of the classroom with masking tape and explain that one half of the room represents God needing our help, the other represents God not needing our help. Read several phrases and have the children get in the appropriate side of the room.

- 1) We are sinners and God forgives us. He cleanses away our sin.
- 2) God has the world spinning perfectly in space.
- 3) God keeps the seasons coming each year.
- 4) God brings to heaven someone who loves Him.

The answer to all of these questions is that God does it all. You can add to this list, but the important thing is that the children know that God does it all, not us.

GENESIS 3:22-24

Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"

--therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.

So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

Here we see man, once a gardener taking care of beautiful trees which God had planted, now expelled from the garden to become a different kind of worker. He must now, instead of tending the soil, till the soil and battle the weeds and thorns in order to care for himself and his family. He must live in complete dependence upon God's goodness.

Anxiety and toil are man's lot for the rest of his life. He is barred from the tree of life, for God placed at the east of the Garden of Eden a detachment of cherubim, armed with flaming swords. How sad it would be for mankind to be in a state of sin and then to eat of the tree of life; to live forever in a sinful state. God wanted Adam to look for life and happiness in the promised Seed. One day, God's saints will “eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God” in the New Jerusalem (Revelation 2:7). **God is gracious to sinful man.**

There are a lot of things we learn from the fall of man in the garden. May we be wise to the tricks of the enemy, Satan! Let us understand that we are sinners, but God has provided a way through His Son Jesus Christ for us to be forgiven of our sin and to enter into a relationship with Him. If you have not asked Jesus to come into your life, do so today.

A Cord of Three

Have the children make a bracelet to remind them that through Jesus we are in communion with God. Make three different colored 12" pieces of yarn for each child. Tie a knot about one inch from the end and braid the pieces together. Explain that one represents God the Father; the second, God the Son; and the third, God the Holy Spirit. When there is about one inch left after braiding, tie another knot.

Explain to the children that as they wear their bracelets, they can remember that we have a free relationship with God because of the price paid by Jesus.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for God's abundant grace. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them an opportunity.