

LESSON AIM: To show how man sinned in the garden and how that sin brought suffering death and separation from God to all mankind.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Genesis 3:1-6

REVIEW QUESTIONS: (*“Ok, who remembers from last week’s lesson...”*)

- 1) What is something you remember about creation through a telescope?
- 2) What is something you remember about creation through a microscope?
- 3) Can someone explain last week’s Bible verse in their own words?

I. INTRODUCTION:

When we are born do we automatically have a relationship with God? No. Why not? Because of something that happened in the Garden of Eden. Call on one of the students to read **Genesis 2:15-17**.

II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS:

- A. God made man from the dust of the earth and placed him in a beautiful garden (2:7-9).
- B. God gave this first man, Adam, the task of working in the garden and taking care of it (2:15).
- C. God told Adam that he could eat of every tree in the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and evil (2:16, 17). **[God's first command was serious! If Adam disobeyed, he would die]**
- D. God knew man's need to be with others of his kind, so He formed a woman using Adam's rib (2:18-24).
- E. One day as the woman (later named Eve) walked alone in the garden, the serpent questioned her concerning God's command (3:1).
- F. Eve explained they could eat from all trees except one (3:2-3).
- G. Satan tempted Eve, assuring her that she and Adam would not die but would "be like God, knowing good and evil" (3:4-5).
- H. Eve disobeyed God and ate the fruit, also giving it to Adam (3:6-7).
- I. Having their eyes opened, Adam and Eve knew they were naked and tried to cover themselves with fig leaves (3:7).
- J. God came into the garden seeking Adam and Eve, but they hid (3:8-9).
- K. Adam and Eve were afraid; they knew they had disobeyed God (3:10).
- L. As God questioned them about their sin, Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the serpent (3:12-13).
- M. God made a special promise that He would one day send One who would put away sin and have victory over Satan (3:15).
- N. God made clothes from animal skins to cover Adam and Eve (3:21).
[This event implies the first sacrifice to cover sin; it prefigures the death of Christ on the cross as complete and final payment for our sins.]

LESSON:

Why did God put the Tree of the Knowledge of good and evil in the garden? To find out if Adam and Eve really loved Him. It is one thing to say we love someone, but it's another thing to demonstrate our love by being obedient to the one we say we love.

Unfortunately, Adam and Eve chose to disobey God when they were tempted. Let's read what happened in **Genesis 3:1-6**. Have volunteers read a verse one at a time. (Suggestion boys-1, girls 2-3, boys 4, all-6) This is the first mention of Satan, and the students may have a lot of questions. Briefly explain Satan's own rebellion and pride, which caused him to be kicked out of heaven and explain that even to this day he wants to destroy God's creation and will lie to us just as he did to Adam and Eve.

Did you notice that Satan questions God's Word, lies about God and then lies about what will happen if God is disobeyed? Adam and Eve made the mistake of listening to the lies of the snake (Satan in disguise) and ate the fruit that God specifically told them not to eat. When Adam chose to disobey God he brought on himself and all of mankind sickness, suffering, and death. Sickness, suffering and death were not God's choice. When Adam sinned he was cut off from God's fellowship and had to live under the curse of his disobedience. But is that fair that we have to suffer? We didn't eat the fruit in the garden! Well, the Bible tells us that like Adam, all of us have sinned and are cut off from God.

We all came from Adam and Eve and carry that "sin sickness" in our blood. We need a remedy, or a cure for the sin that we were born with! Without God, the One who made us and the One who truly can make us happy, our situation is truly desperate. But God had a plan to rescue us and bring back our fellowship with Himself. When Adam and Eve sinned, they changed and the spiritual covering was gone and they were ashamed. They tried to cover themselves with leaves, but that didn't work. Then God gave them clothes of animal skins. Where do you think that came from? Yes, God had to kill animals to cover their shame. God had a bigger plan to cover the sin of the whole world. You and I know God's promised One is the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The Lord Jesus came from heaven to die on the cross for the sins of the whole world. He died for your sins and mine. He didn't have to do that. He was perfect. He was willing to die because He loved us. The blood came from His hands and feet as they nailed Him to the cross. (Describe His suffering, emphasizing the seriousness of sin's punishment.) The Bible says He is the One who "washed us from our sins in His own blood" (Rev 1:5b) The Lord Jesus took the punishment for our sins. When the Lord Jesus died, they took Him from the cross. He was buried, but He didn't stay dead. After three days He rose again and is now in heaven. **Because the Lord Jesus took the serious punishment for our sin on Himself, you can receive God's gift of forgiveness and everlasting life today.** The Lord Jesus was the Savior God promised to send long ago.

Allow time for questions, the students will have lots of comments (and coming from different religious backgrounds, they will have different interpretations of this creation story that they may want to share or ask questions. Be sensitive to how you respond, but always point back to the authority of Scripture and what the Bible tells us, and how other parts of the Bible give us more insight into what happened (i.e. the story of Satan being kicked out from heaven, etc...) Remind the kids again that **God loves them** and wants to have fellowship with us and a personal relationship with us. Close in prayer and spend a few minutes on the memory verse!

MEMORY VERSE:

**"But God demonstrated His own love for us in this, while we were still sinners
Christ died for us."**

Romans 5:8 (NKJ & NIV)