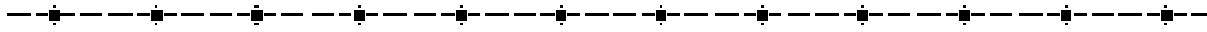


GOD'S BIG PLAN

The First Man and the First Woman Sin Genesis 3:1-21

Supporting Scriptures: Psalm 19:7-12, 51:5, 66:18, Psalm 119; Isaiah 59:1-2, Jeremiah 16:17, 17:9-10, 23:23-24; John 8:44; Romans 5:14-19; 1 Corinthians 15:22, 45-49; 2 Corinthians 11:14; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Peter 5:8



Lesson Goals:
To see Satan as God's enemy, and ours.
To see our need to believe and obey God's Word.
To see that because God is righteous, sin must be punished.

Scripture Memory I have treasured Your word in my heart so that I may not sin against You. Psalm 119:11 (HCSB)

NOTE: Familiarize yourself so much with this story that it can be told as a STORY, not as "He said. . . She said" or read. But, to reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

The Lesson: Now, let's review. (Take time to review the previous stories. Encourage more and more students to share. It will help them remember and learn the stories.)

What did God do just by speaking? (He created the world and everything in it!) What kinds of things did God create? (light, sky, water, land, birds, fish, animals, man and woman) Did anyone see Him do all of this? (Yes. The angels, and they watched and cheered!) Were all of the angels together? (No. Satan, who had been the beautiful angel Lucifer, tried to put himself in God's important place, even though he was just one of God's creations. God kicked him, and other disobedient angels, out of heaven.) Is Satan God's friend? (No. Satan is God's enemy.)

What was the world like, after God rested from creating? (It was very good. It was perfect.) What were Adam and Eve like? (They were perfect, created to be like God.) Could Adam and Eve do whatever they wanted to? Did they have any rules? (They had one rule. They could eat from any tree in the garden, but one. God told them not to eat from the "tree of knowledge of good and evil.")

READ: Genesis 3:1-3 (Hold the Bible in your hands throughout the story.)

In the beginning of this perfect world God had created, the animals were peaceful and there was no pain, no fear, and no death. God even walked in the garden and talked with Adam and Eve. But, evil was about to enter this beautiful, perfect place.

It was on a beautiful, perfect day that Eve was walking around the garden. As she walked, she saw a snake. She wasn't frightened because in the beginning of this perfect world, there was no fear and all the animals were peaceful. So, when the snake began to speak, Eve stayed to listen. God had made the snakes to be very clever and smart. But what Eve didn't know was that this was no ordinary snake. Satan, the devil and God's enemy, had become a snake. It was this snake that asked, "Did God really say you couldn't eat from the fruit trees in the garden?" Eve didn't realize that Satan was trying to trick her, so she answered him. "Oh, no, we can eat from any tree except the one in the middle of the garden. But we cannot eat, or even touch, that tree. If we do, we'll die."

Then, the devil did it. "You won't really die. God is afraid you'll eat from that tree and be like Him,

knowing good and evil.” And the woman looked at the tree. It was a beautiful tree and its fruit looked so good. And then she really wanted that knowledge the devil talked about. And even though Eve had everything she would ever need, she reached out and took the fruit. Then, she bit it and ate it. And then, she gave it to her husband, Adam, to eat. And he ate it, too!

Then it happened. Their “eyes were opened.” They realized that they had no clothes on. They took fig leaves and sewed them together to make something to cover themselves with. And then, they heard God’s voice as He walked in the garden. Instead of running to Him, they ran from Him and hid themselves in the trees. God knew where they were, but He called out to them. Adam answered God and said, “I heard you and I hid because I was naked.” “Who told you that you were naked?” God asked. “Did you eat from the tree I said not to eat from?” Then they knew that God knew. He had known all along. And all they could do was pass the blame. Adam blamed Eve, and Eve blamed the snake.

And God, who had created all the angels, including Lucifer who now stood in front of Him as a snake, and who had created this first man and woman to be His friends, knew what He must do. He’d already done it once to Satan. Their disobedience had to be punished. The snake’s punishment was this: to crawl around on his belly and eat dust all of his life. No longer would things be peaceful. Snakes and humans would now be enemies (just as the devil was already their enemy). Snakes would bite humans and hurt them. But there was a wonderful promise, too, God’s big plan! One day, One Man, one of Adam and Eve’s descendants-- God’s Son, Jesus, would crush the head of Satan and make a way for humans to be right with God again.

The snake wasn’t the only one punished. Adam and Eve knew what God had said about the tree in the garden. They chose to disobey Him. And for Eve’s disobedience: having a baby wouldn’t be a peaceful thing, it would be painful and difficult. And what did Adam’s disobedience get him? For listening to his wife, instead of God, the punishment was this: the ground would be cursed. Weeds and thorns would grow and the earth would be hard. It would be difficult to plant and grow things in. And even though Adam and Eve didn’t die immediately, from that moment on, their bodies began to age and grow older. Adam and Eve had received their punishment, but God wasn’t finished. They had tried to cover their sin up by sewing fig leaves together. But, their way wasn’t good enough. They couldn’t make themselves right with God that way. So God took an innocent animal and killed it so that clothes could be made for Adam and Eve. Because of Adam and Eve’s sin, an animal had to die. It didn’t make their sin go away, it just reminded them of their sin. But God’s promise would soon come true and Jesus would come to die to take away our sins.

Review:

So, what you have learned? Who will retell the story? (Don’t pressure your students, just encourage them to share.)

Is there anything that Adam and Eve needed, that God didn’t give them? (No.) So, of all that they had, was it enough or did they want more? (They wanted more.) How about you? Are you satisfied with all God has given you?

Did God keep His rule a secret from Adam and Eve? (No. He loved Adam enough to tell him what to stay away from.) Did Adam and Eve obey God? (No.) Why not? (They chose to listen to Satan, their enemy, instead of God, who loved them.) Was Adam and Eve’s sin a surprise to God? (No. He is everywhere and sees everything.) Who will you obey when the opportunity comes to question God’s rules?

Is God perfect and holy or a sinful liar? (Perfect and holy.) Can God leave sin unpunished? (No. God hates sin.) How must sin be punished? (By death.) What died for Adam and Eve’s sin? (An innocent animal.) Who was promised to die in my place and your place? (Jesus, God’s innocent Son.) Will you accept that your disobedience deserves death, but that Jesus died so you can live? If you have questions, please talk to me, today.

Planning for Next Week
Lesson 6 • Life Outside the Garden
Genesis 3:22-6:12

PRESCHOOL LESSON

SING: “O, Be Careful”

SHARE: In the beginning of God’s perfect world, the animals were all nice and no one was afraid. God even walked in the garden. But, something bad was about to enter this beautiful, perfect place.

On a beautiful, perfect day, Eve was walking around in the garden. While she was walking, she saw a snake. But remember, no one was afraid and all the animals were nice. So, when the snake started talking, Eve listened. In the beginning, snakes were very smart. But Eve didn’t know that this snake was the devil, trying to trick her. He asked her, “Did God really say you couldn’t eat from the fruit trees in the garden?” Eve answered him. “Oh, no, we can eat from any tree except the one in the middle of the garden.”

Then, the devil did it. He told a big, fat lie! “You won’t really die. God is afraid you’ll eat from that tree and be like Him.”

Eve looked at the tree. It was a beautiful tree and the fruit looked so good. Instead of obeying God, Eve reached out and took the fruit. Then, she ate it. After that, she gave it to her husband, Adam, and he ate it, too! And then, when Adam and Eve heard God in the garden, they ran and hid in the trees. God knew where they were, but He called out, “Adam, where are you?” Adam answered God and said, I heard you and I hid. God asked Adam, “Did you eat from the tree I said not to eat from?” Then they knew that God knew what they had done. He had known all along. And instead of saying to God, “Yes, I ate from the tree you told me not to,” all they could do was blame each other.

Their disobedience had to be punished. God punished the snake. He punished Adam and Eve, too. Adam and Eve’s disobedience hurt their friendship with God. But God still loved Adam and Eve, and He had a special plan for their great, great, great, great Grandson. God would make a way for us to be His friends forever . . . by sending His Son, Jesus.

Have you ever disobeyed someone, your parents or teachers? I have, too. When you were asked about it, did you tell the truth or did you blame someone else? God loves us and wants us to do the right thing. God wants us to be obedient. But, when we disobey, He wants us always to tell the truth. He loves us no matter what, but He knows that it is better for us when we obey.

PRAY: Thank you, God, for loving me, even when I disobey.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Memory Verse Activity - Bring a "Treasure Box." Have (already prepared) one word, or phrase, from the memory verse on separate slips of paper. Allow each student to choose a slip of paper, repeating the activity if there are many students. When all have chosen a slip, work together putting the verse in order. Repeat as necessary.

If you haven't done so already, this would be a good week to make a point of stressing Scripture memorization. Try making a poster board chart with your students' names. Mark off a space for each week that you meet. A special treat can be given after every fifth verse learned or at the end of the study, or both. Be consistent and encourage each student to memorize Scripture.

- Make a paper-chain snake.
- Make a picture of the fruit tree and the snake using your students' fingerprints. Encourage them to illustrate the story around their tree and snake figures.
- Provide clay dough. Make clay dough snakes.
- Sing "The Devil is a Meany."
The Devil is a meany, he has been from the start.
He always causes trouble when he hangs around your heart.
I've found a way to beat him and make him go away;
Read the Bible every day and pray, pray, pray.

O, Satan is allergic to the Good Book we all know
And when we get down on our knees it puts him on the go.
I've found a way to beat him and make him go away;
Read the Bible every day and pray, pray, pray.
- For older students: Make charts labeled "Adam" and "Jesus." Discuss Romans 5:14-19 and 1 Corinthians 15:22, 45-49. Fill the chart with characteristics of the two; for example Adam-all sin and die/Jesus-gives life.
- If time permits, take the opportunity to contrast God and Satan. Review what has been learned about God, so far. For more info on Satan, look at the following; 2 Corinthians 11:14; 1 Peter 5:8; John 8:44.
- Take this opportunity to look at "the Roman Road."