

Lesson 3

Adam and Eve tempted

Genesis 2:8-16 and Genesis 3:1-24



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1. Preparation

- 1) Choose memory verse
- 2) Select attention grabber to start off lesson / break the ice - optional, recommended for younger classes. (see point 7)
- 3) Suggested activities- optional, recommended for younger children (see point 8)

2. Memory verse

For older children:

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous – **Romans 5:19**

For younger children:

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life.... – **Romans 6:23**

3. Theme

God is gracious to sinful man.

4. Lesson introduction

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. It was a special place created by God for all of His creatures as well as the first man and woman, Adam and Eve. It was a very beautiful garden and a place different from any place today. It was a place of blessing that the Lord made special for His people.

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. Sin separates us from God and from His blessing in our lives. That is why we need a savior, Jesus! **God is gracious to sinful man.**

5. Verse by Verse Commentary

Genesis 2:8-9

Here we see the Creator God providing a home for Adam. God Himself planted the garden. One of the first lessons we can learn from the Garden of Eden is that God desires to provide for His people. He knew that Adam and Eve would need a place to live, so He provided for them. God knows our needs and He will help us in our times of need as well.

The garden was named Eden meaning, "delight." Adam's home was not something made by man. It was not a mansion or a palace designed and decorated by man. For a ceiling, Adam had the heavens and the stars to gaze upon; he had the beauty of the plants and trees to surround him, for we see that every tree was pleasant (beautiful, delightful) to the sight.

God's provision for man is wondrous. In a previous lesson, we learned that God created plant life and that it was "good" (Genesis 1:11-12); yet we see God planting for Adam something even more wondrous and beautiful beyond description. And, it was plenteous for food. Our God always provides for us all that we need.

We also see in verse 8 that God put "the man whom He had


formed" into the garden. God had lovingly formed man out of the dust of the common ground. Then God placed Adam into the garden. This speaks of God's grace, giving so freely His provision to all of us.

There were two trees spoken of specifically in the midst of the garden: the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. They were named, perhaps, because of their significance to man-- that is to say, because of the effect the eating of their fruit was destined to produce on human life and its development. The tree of life was a sign and seal to Adam, assuring him of the continuance of life and happiness if he would continue to obey God. Of this tree, he could eat and live. We will talk about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil later when we get to verse 17.

Genesis 2:10-14

Here we see that a river went out of Eden to water the garden. We are not given the name of this river, but we are told that it did water the garden. From this river came four other rivers, flowing into other lands. God took care of the garden—it wanted for nothing. The lands that the four rivers ran through are described as being full of treasures: gold, bdellium (some define it as a "fragrant gum", others as a "pearl"), and onyx. There were all these material riches, yet the spiritual riches of fellowship with the Father were even more precious.

Genesis 2:16-17

In verse 16, we have the first of the eight covenants: the Edenic Covenant. A covenant is like an agreement  God told man that He wanted to bless Him but man had certain responsibilities. Under this covenant Adam was to:

- 1) Propagate the race
- 2) Subdue the earth for man
- 3) Have dominion over the animal creation
- 4) Care for the garden and eat its fruits and herbs.
- 5) Not eat of one tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, on penalty of death for disobedience.

We see here that God gave Adam instruction. He shared with Adam what He wanted him to do. God also gives us instruction and direction for our lives. He gives us His Word to help us to know His will for our lives.

Where would we be without His direction? The command was for Adam's good and vital for his life. He could eat freely of any tree, except one. If he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he could no longer eat of the tree of life.

The second tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, was also in the midst of the garden. It was also pleasant to the eyes and a tree to be desired. This tree represented knowledge that God alone had—the awareness of evil. Man was created in innocence, not knowing disobedience. If he took of the fruit, he would disobey God (sin), bringing death upon himself.

Later in the lesson, we will learn the choice that Adam made and what happened as a result. We will also see that God knew what would happen, and He had everything under control. He had a way to help Adam and all of mankind.

God wants to bless us. He wants to provide for all of our needs. He wants to give us direction and instructions on how to live our lives. He also wants to have a relationship with us. He will bless us when we obey Him.

Sadly, sin has entered into the world, as we will see in chapter 3. Through the disobedience of one man, Adam, we were made sinners; but, through the obedience of one Man, Jesus Christ, we were made righteous (Romans 5:19). Adam brought sin into the world by eating the fruit of the forbidden tree. Jesus made us righteous by taking our punishment at Calvary upon a tree. Two trees—one brought death to mankind; another tree would bring life. As God warned Adam, so He warns man. Obey His Word and live, or disobey His Word and die. What choice will we make? [God is gracious to sinful man.](#)

[Suggested activity: Game of good and evil / picture of tree and cross](#)

Genesis 3:1-6

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.**  here 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

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.**

Suggested activity: Where are you?

Genesis 3:8-13

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.


Suggested activity: Excuses

Genesis 3:14-19

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  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

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).

Suggested activity: God does it all

Genesis 3:22-24

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.

6. Prayer:

Lead the children in a prayer of obedience to God's Word. If there are any If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.

7. Attention Grabbers

What you will need:

Do not eat the bananas: 2 bananas, chalk board

Carrying out the 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.**

8. Activities:

What you will need:

1. Picture of tree and cross: White, yellow, and brown construction paper, tissue paper of colors suitable for use as leaves, glue and markers
2. God does it all: masking tape

How to carry out the activities:

1) Good and Evil Game:

Divide the room in half and tell the children the one side represents a good (obedient) decision for us, the other a wrong (disobedient) decision. Name things like #1) cheating on a test and #2) helping our mom.

As you name each one, tell the class to go to the side it represents. Do this a few times so the children can plainly see that there is a choice of

obedience and disobedience. Explain that every day we make choices. We can obey or disobey. Adam and Eve had the same choice in their lives. Obedience would bring blessing and disobedience would bring death. God allows man free choice.

2) Picture of tree and cross:

Give each child a white or yellow piece of construction paper. From brown construction paper, have the children cut out a tree trunk. Glue the tree trunk onto their piece of construction paper. Using the tissue paper, crumple up small pieces and glue onto the tree for leaves.

Next, have the children cut out a brown cross and glue it next to the tree. Ask the children to write Romans 5:19 on their picture and then color and decorate it as they wish.

3) 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.

4) 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.

5) 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.

9. Bible text (NIV):

Genesis 2:8-16

⁸ Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. ⁹ The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters.

¹¹ The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹² (The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin^[a] and onyx are also there.) ¹³ The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush.^[b] ¹⁴ The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Ashur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;

Genesis 3:1-24

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

⁴ “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in

the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰ He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

¹¹ And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

¹² The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring^[a] and hers; he will crush^[b] your head, and you will strike his heel.”

¹⁶ To the woman he said, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”

¹⁷ To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

²⁰ Adam^[c] named his wife Eve,^[d] because she would become the mother of all the living.

²¹ The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. ²² And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” ²³ So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴ After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side^[e] of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.