



THE FALL

Genesis 3

Memory Verse

Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation. Luke 11:4

Context/Background

The first two chapters of Genesis describe God's perfect creation. In the garden of Eden there was perfect harmony between humans and other creatures. Their differences complemented one another and did not lead to fear and suspicion. Similarly, man and woman complemented each other and lived in harmony. All creatures lived happily under God.

Summary

Sadly, this ideal state did not last. Through the serpent, sin entered the world. The devil's method of tempting the woman was typical of the way he works, and it has been repeated throughout history. His subtle questions raised doubts about what God had said, and challenged God's truthfulness and motives. Eve fell into the trap. She began to question God's warning about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (2:7). The knowledge Adam and Eve gained through eating the fruit did not bring happiness; it brought disharmony, guilt, and shame. However, God did not renounce or annihilate his creation. He spoke the first gospel message when he announced that the woman's offspring (Christ) would crush the serpent's head (Genesis 3:15). Christ would defeat the devil.

(GROW Kids FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT Genesis 3 How sin came into the world)

Relevance/Application

Themes: love, justice, forgiveness

Younger students:

- Adam and Eve were tempted by the snake, who persuaded them not to listen to God's instructions. The devil also tempts us not to listen to God.
- Sin has caused great harm to us and to the world. Only God can repair the damage.
- God gives us his law to help keep us away from sinning.
- God sent Jesus to save people.
- God's love continues for people even when we do wrong or when things go wrong.
- We can say sorry to God for our mistakes and he will forgive us.

Older students:

- When Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, sin entered the world. People no longer lived forever but were condemned to live lives of suffering and death as a consequence. The whole of creation was thrown into brokenness, and each one of us is born 'sinful and unclean'.

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- Sin leads to internal turmoil within ourselves (Rom 7:19), broken relationships with others, and it also has a profound effect on human relationships with all of creation. Nature now tends to work against human beings (Gen 3:17–19) and can unleash massive destruction. Human beings also abuse their mandate to take care of and preserve creation.
 - Because God is holy, just and loving, he cannot simply ignore human sin. Sin has its consequences. However, already in the Garden of Eden when sin came into the world, God's ultimate response to sin was clear. His plan was to show his love and mercy to all of his creation, and his promise of a saviour (Gen 3:15) was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Christian Studies Framework

Christian Beliefs Key Idea 3 A Christian worldview is shaped by the biblical teaching of sin and grace

Catechism Connections

In the Lord's Prayer we say: Lead us not into temptation. By praying this, we are asking God to help us not to do anything that is wrong. We are asking God to lead us the way he wants us to go. To lead us away from doing bad things. This is really hard and that is why we keep praying this prayer over and over again.

Discussion/Wondering Questions:

Early Years

- Do you ever do naughty things? Why?
- Have you ever made someone else sad?
- Adam and Eve were naughty and that made God sad. When we do the wrong thing or hurt someone, what should we do? (say sorry, say sorry to God)

Primary

- What did God say would happen to Adam and Eve if they ate from the tree in the middle of the garden?
- What did the serpent (snake) say would happen?
- What does it mean to be tempted?
- What helps you make the right decision?

Secondary

- Sin affects our relationship with God. When you know you have disobeyed God in some way, how do you feel toward him and about things like listening to him, praying and praising God?
- Sin affects our relationships with other people. How is your relationship with others affected when you lie or cheat or are jealous?
- How do other people's sins affect you?
- Talk about how people's greediness has caused damage to the environment and our ability to live in harmony with nature.
- In Romans 6:23 it says, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Compare

Images or objects to spark discussion

- A big red shiny apple and a snake
 - Two treats – one that students have permission to eat, and another which you tell them they may not eat. Ask them whether the one they can't have seems more desirable because it's not allowed. Ask them to imagine that the forbidden treat is poisoned. How do they feel about it now? Make the connection that temptations are often very attractive, but that they can have serious consequences.
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Telling the Story

Bibles: The Beginner's Bible
The Big Rescue Bible
The NIV Bible

The Jesus Storybook Bible: The Terrible Lie. Adam and Eve Lose Everything

Tracts and Other Resources

Lutheran Tract Mission

GROW Ministries

[GROW Kids FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT Year A Genesis 3 How sin came into the world](#)

Audio Stories/Podcasts

Kids Corner – Bible Stories [The Story of the Fall](#)

[Bible.is](#) - Audio recordings of the Bible in many different languages and several English translations. Searchable by book and chapter. Excellent resource for NESB learners.

Videos: Early Years / Junior Primary

[The Story of Adam and Eve for Kids \(The Garden of Eden\) | Bible Stories for Kids](#)

Middle – Upper Primary

[The Beginning of Our Story | Genesis 3:1-15 - CPH VBS and Children's Ministry](#)

[God's Story: The Fall - Crossroads Kids' Club](#)

[The Fall of Man - Adam and Eve - Genesis 3 | Animated Sunday School Lesson for Kids - ShareFaith Kids](#)

[What Is Sin? - PursueGOD Kids](#)

Secondary/Staff

[Book of Genesis Summary: A Complete Animated Overview \(Part 1\) – The Bible Project](#)

[Sin Involves More Than You Might Think \(We'll Explain\) - BibleProject](#)

["The Pill Scene"](#) from *The Matrix* – as an introduction to discussion about making hard choices.

Invocation

We gather today in the name of
God, who loves us and gives us free will,
Jesus, who rescues us from our sins, and
the Holy Spirit, who helps us resist temptation,
Amen.

Prayers

Prayer

Our Father in Heaven, keep us from doing bad things that make you unhappy.
Amen.

Lord God, give us courage and strength when we are tempted. Help us to
make the right decisions and stay strong in our faith. Amen.

Dear Jesus, thank you for coming into the world and dying for us on the cross, so
that things could be made right again after sin came into the world and into
our lives. Help us to be sorry for the bad things we do and to be sure that you
forgive us. Amen.

Heavenly Father, we praise You that in Your grace and wisdom, You chose to
redeem the human race, by grace through faith in the death, burial, and
Resurrection of Your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Thank you that through Your
power, we can resist the schemes of the devil. Help us to trust in Your Word of
truth and to depend on You in all things, for You are good and gracious, and

Your loving-kindness endures from one generation to another. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Mealtime Prayer

For food in a world where many walk in hunger;
for faith in a world where many walk in fear;
for friends in a world where many walk alone –
we give you thanks, O Lord. Amen.

Blessing

(Name), may God keep you safe with his life-giving words, so that you stay strong in faith.

Music

With a focus on God's plan to save people as a result of The Fall:
[Super Saviour to the Rescue](#) by Colin Buchanan;
[Jesus Loves Me - Listener Kids](#)
Amazing Grace (Lutheran Hymnal 851) or [Amazing Grace – My Chains are Gone – Chris Tomlin](#) OR [This Is Amazing Grace - Kids Version](#)
I heard the voice of Jesus say (Lutheran Hymnal 306) OR [I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say - Emu Music](#)
[All Creatures of Our God and King – Sovereign Grace Music](#)
[Hymn Of The Saviour - Emu Music](#)
[My Heart Is Filled with Thankfulness - Keith & Kristyn Getty](#)

Activities

Early Years:

- Draw or colour in pictures from the story
- Teach the children this rhyme based on Humpty Dumpty:
*Adam and Eve in the garden one day,
Listened to what the snake had to say.
Sin came into the world that day;
No-one but Jesus can take it away.*

Primary:

- Give students whiteboards or tiles and have them write their sins on them with whiteboard markers or washable crayons. Point out that ever since Adam and Eve, all people sin, and our sins have consequences. But the really good news is that Jesus paid the price for our sins, and so when we believe in God and say sorry for our sins, we are forgiven. Jesus washes us clean! Use dry erasers or pour water over the tiles to wash away the sins.

Upper Primary/Secondary:

- Draw a ripple diagram, showing how sin has a ripple effect – starting within individuals, then affecting personal relationships, then the wider community and then all of God's creation. Don't forget that Jesus died to pay the price for all our sins. You may like to create an alternative ripple diagram with God's love at the centre instead of our sins. How does God's love affect individuals, relationships, the community, the world?
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