

ADAM AND EVE DISOBEY GOD'S COMMAND

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 3



Sin came to us through man's disobedience.

The STORY

Pray with children to start class.

Teaching Points for Class Discussion:

Satan is the Deceiver – In John 8:44, Satan is called “a liar and the father of lies.” The most cleverly deceitful aspect of Satan’s temptation was that he mixed lies with truth. Indeed, Adam became like God, knowing good and evil. What Satan did not say is that Adam and Eve would know their own evil. Up until the moment they sinned, Adam and Eve did not know evil. God, however, was very aware of evil. So, in a limited sense Adam and Eve did become more like God, but in a more profound way, they became more like Satan, bound to sin and evil.

Adam and Eve willingly turned away from God by eating the fruit – Before Adam or Eve touched the forbidden fruit to their lips, they sinned in their hearts. Eve decided that she could have what she wanted. In effect, she rejected God’s words and exalted her own thoughts. She found God’s words lacking. She chose to believe the words of Satan. In other words, she allowed herself to stand as judge over God and His word.

From this very first sin we see man exalting his own philosophy above the truth of God. God had already told them if they ate the fruit they would surely die. This, however, was not as important to Eve as her own observations. Eve listened to the serpent and exalted her own perceptions over what God had said. The result was that she fell into unbelief, disobeyed, and turned away from God. Similarly, Adam saw with his eyes that Eve did not die, so he also trusted his own limited observation over God’s word. The result was that he too rebelled against and disobeyed his Creator.

God’s word proved true and death entered the garden – At first glance it might seem that God was wrong. Adam and Eve didn’t immediately die. But, the truth is that in that moment they died a spiritual death and natural death became inevitable. Apart from the sustaining grace and mercy of God they would have died physically the moment they sinned. Adam and Eve were quickly driven from the garden and forbidden to eat of the tree of life. In due time, their bodies perished.

The grace and mercy of God is evident in His judgment – Instead of killing Adam and Eve, God killed an animal and clothed them with the animal’s skin. This demonstration of undeserved mercy shows us God’s wonderful grace. The shedding of the animal substitute’s blood, and the covering that the animal’s death provided is a picture of Christ. Jesus’ blood would atone for our sin and cover our shame. One day, in heaven, we will rejoice with Adam and Eve and we will say with them, “Christ took our penalty”.

ADAM AND EVE DISOBEY GOD'S COMMAND

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 3

Where Is Jesus?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

When Adam and Eve fell into sin it was not a surprise to God. He had already appointed Jesus, who created all things, to be the redeemer.

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. (Colossians 1:19-20)

For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:22)

ON THE ROAD TO EMMANUS

Read the following Bible passage from the Old Testament. Use the following questions to help the children understand how this passage points to Christ in the New Testament.

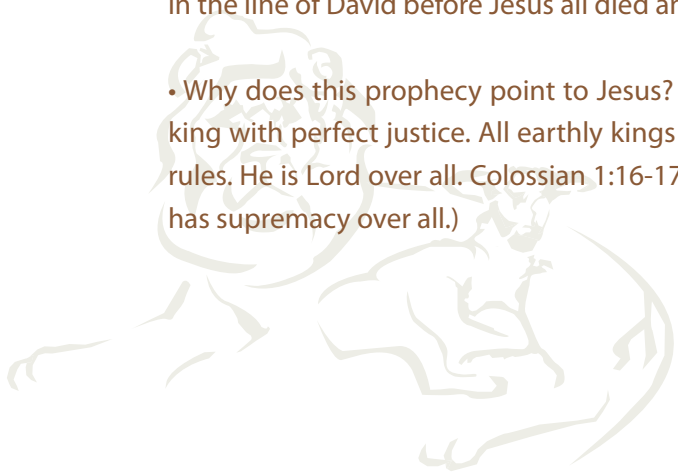
Bible Passage: Isaiah 9:7

Connecting the passage to Christ:

Isaiah speaks of a king on the throne of David that will reign in righteousness forever. Jesus is the only king on the throne of David that did not die, but lives forever.

Questions for reflection:

- Could this passage be a prophecy about one of the kings in the line of David before Jesus? (The kings in the line of David before Jesus all died and none of them were righteous forever.)
- Why does this prophecy point to Jesus? (Jesus is the only man who ever lived who was a righteous king with perfect justice. All earthly kings had a limit to their kingdoms but Jesus has no end to all He rules. He is Lord over all. Colossian 1:16-17 tells us all things were created by Him, for Him, and that He has supremacy over all.)



ADAM AND EVE DISOBEY GOD'S COMMAND

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 3

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITIES & OBJECT LESSONS

Use the following activities for practical application and discovery of this lesson. For the younger children, review the preschool questions and use them to help the children relate to the passage. For older children, ask them why they think this passage is in the Bible for us today. How is it supposed to affect our lives?

NOT WHAT MEETS THE EYE

Supplies:

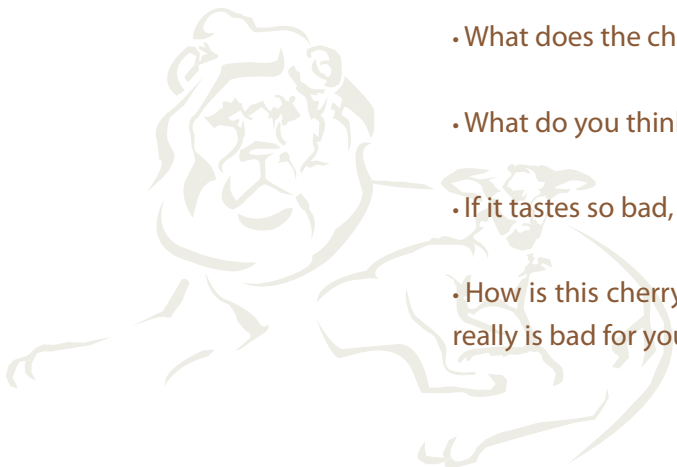
- two packets of unsweetened cherry drink mix
- a clear pitcher,
- clear plastic glasses for the class
- a box of animal crackers

This illustration will help the children to see that though sin might look good on the outside it is always bitter to turn away from God.

Mix the drink mix without sugar and half the prescribed water. Pass the animal crackers out to your class leaving the drink on the table until the crackers produce a thirst in the children. Then, ask them if they would like a drink and show them the pitcher of cherry drink mix. Tell them that it has a great cherry flavor. Make sure to have another adult join the children to help start complaining of the bitter taste of the drink mix if the children fail to react.

After some of the children begin to react draw them out using the following questions as a guide:

- What does the cherry drink taste like? (Accept any answer.)
- What do you think it is missing? (Sugar or sweetener.)
- If it tastes so bad, why does it look so good in the pitcher? (Accept any answer.)
- How is this cherry drink like the fruit on the forbidden tree? (It looks good but it really is bad for you.)



ADAM AND EVE DISOBEY GOD'S COMMAND

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 3

Tell the children that you gave them no warning, but Adam and Eve had a warning. Explain to the children that Adam and Eve were so deceived by Satan and so attracted by their desire for the fruit that they disregarded God's warning.

Review with the children all the wonderful things that God did prior to the fall that testified to Adam and Eve that He was good. For instance, He placed them in a garden, He gave them abundant food to eat, He spoke to them, He protected them, etc. Then help the children to see that in spite of all that God did, Adam and Eve still chose to rebel.

ANIMAL SKIN

Supplies:

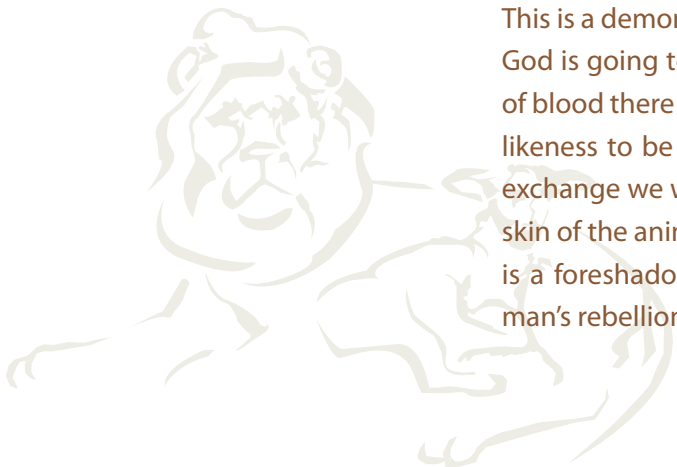
animal pelt or sheep skin

Often children are fascinated with a real fur. Look for a rabbit pelt at your local craft store or order one from a company online. You can locate a company easily by searching for "rabbit pelt for sale." Rabbit is nice because it is extremely soft to the touch. A sheepskin is a good substitute if you can secure one.

As you pass the pelt around the class for them to handle, ask them the following questions:

- What happened to Adam and Eve after they ate the fruit? (Adam and Eve saw that they were naked so they became afraid and hid from God.)
- What judgment did God say would come to them if they ate of the forbidden fruit? (God said that they would die.)
- Did God immediately kill them? (No, God did not immediately kill them. They eventually died of old age but were allowed to continue to live.)
- Who or what did God immediately kill? (God sacrificed an animal to make garments of skin for Adam and Eve and cover their nakedness.)

This is a demonstration of God's mercy and grace and is the first indication that God is going to forgive their sin. Hebrews 9:22 tells us "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins." God would send His only Son in human likeness to be our substitute and take the punishment that we deserved. In exchange we would be given His perfect life. Here, an animal is killed and the skin of the animal is given to Adam and Eve to cover their nakedness (sin). This is a foreshadowing of God's plan of redemption right from the very start of man's rebellion.



ADAM AND EVE DISOBEY GOD'S COMMAND

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 3

DANDELION

Supplies:

dig out a large dandelion getting the whole root (Obviously this is a project that cannot be accomplished in winter.)

Pass the weed around to the children and ask the following questions:

- What is this? (A dandelion weed.)
- Why do people hate having dandelions in their lawns? (Weeds like dandelions smother the grass. They also leave their ugly seed heads sticking out of your lawn after the flowers go to seed. One dandelion can spread thousands of seeds across your lawn. Eventually, if not killed or pulled, dandelions can take over your whole lawn.)
- How does this relate to the curse for man? (Because of the curse man must labor hard to grow anything, whether it is food or a nice lawn.)
- What should dandelions help us to remember when we see them? (They should help us to remember that there are bad consequences when we sin. We cannot sin and get away with it.)

PRAYER

Pick several children to pray based on the day's scripture passages.



ADAM AND EVE DISOBEY GOD'S COMMAND

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 3

IN CLASS PROJECT

The first and second grade children can use the preschool coloring sheet and questions. Have the older children draw a scene from the chapter and label it with the scripture it depicts.

Also, you could make a list on a chalkboard or white board of ways God demonstrates His grace to Adam and Eve after they sin. Invite the class to participate by raising their hands with suggestions.

- God does not immediately kill Adam and Eve
- God continues to speak to Adam and Eve
- God clothes Adam and Eve
- God allows Adam to grow food (although it will be hard)
- God blesses them with the ability to have children
- God promises a redeemer

FOR OLDER GRADES

FOR THE OLDER CHILDREN

Supplies:

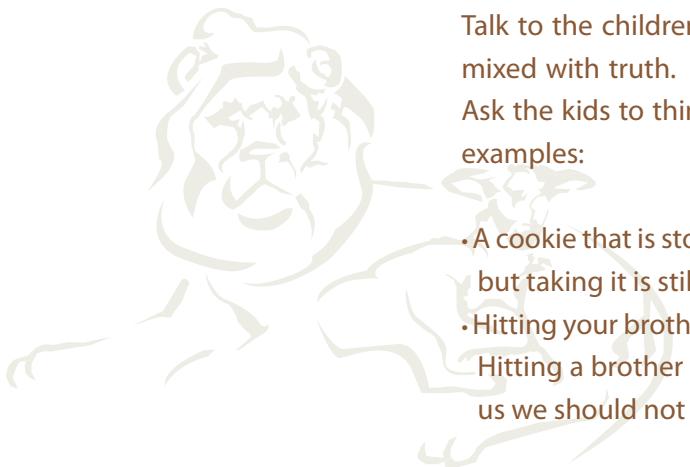
pen and worksheet

Pass out a worksheet and pen to each of the children with the following questions written out and space for them to answer.

- Review the words of Satan. List all the parts of Satan's words that were true and then list the parts that were lies.
- How did Adam and Eve make excuses when God questioned them?

Talk to the children about how subtle sin can be. The lies of Satan can often be mixed with truth. Also, when we are caught in our sin, we like to make excuses. Ask the kids to think of other ways sin can be masked with truth. Here are a few examples:

- A cookie that is stolen from a cookie jar will taste good. The cookie will taste good, but taking it is still wrong.
- Hitting your brother after he hits you first is okay because you didn't start the fight. Hitting a brother is not okay, even if you didn't start the hitting. God's word tells us we should not repay insult for insult (1 Peter 3:9).



ADAM AND EVE DISOBEY GOD'S COMMAND

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 3

Ask the children to think of ways they blame others for their sin. Here are a few examples:

- Children will often say, "But, you didn't ask me" to their parents after not completing a task they knew they were supposed to do. It could even be a routine task they are always responsible for. This is just a subtle way of shifting the blame to their parents. Other blame shifting phrases are: "I forgot," "I was going to do it", and "Why do I always have to do this?"
- In conflict with others over possessions, children often say, "I had it first" or "He hit me first." Children use this phrase to shift blame onto another child for taking what the first child doesn't want to share.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Original sin – When Adam sinned, he sinned as the representative of all future mankind. As a result, his sin is passed on to us. This sin passed on to us is called original or inherited sin. In addition to the stain of Adam's sin on our record, we are also born sinners (Romans 5:12). You do not need to teach little babies to disobey. They are sinners from the time that they are born (Psalm 51:5). Ask the children where in their lives do they disobey people who love and care for them. Help them to see that they disobey their parents in the very same way that Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Explain to them that we inherited sin. Sin was passed down to all men and women as a result of the fall and we all need to be saved from sin.



ADAM AND EVE DISOBEY GOD'S COMMAND

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 3

WORKsheet

1. Review the words of Satan. List all the parts of Satan's words that were true and then list the parts that were lies.

2. How did Adam and Eve make excuses when God questioned them?

Sin can be subtle. The lies of Satan can often be mixed with truth. Also, when we are caught in our sin, we like to make excuses. Here are a few examples:

- A cookie that is stolen from a cookie jar will taste good. The cookie will taste good, but taking it is still wrong.
- Hitting your brother after he hits you first is okay because you didn't start the fight. Hitting a brother is not okay, even if you didn't start the hitting. God's word tells us we should not repay insult for insult (1 Peter 3:9).

3. Think of other ways sin can be masked with truth.

