



LESSON 3

Man rebels against God

GENESIS 2:15-17; 3:1-24



Man sinned against God by disobeying His word.



“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’” (Gen 2:16–17).

Supporting Truths

1. Sin is disobeying God’s word.
2. Sin separates us from God.
3. God promises a Savior to save sinners.
4. Sin comes from following desires and temptations.
5. God punishes sin with pain and death, but He also shows mercy.

Objectives

1. State God’s command that Adam and Eve disobeyed.
2. Describe what Adam and Eve felt and what they did after they sinned.
3. State God’s promise of a seed of the woman crushing the serpent.
4. Explain how Eve was tempted.
5. List several consequences of Adam and Eve’s sin, along with God’s mercies.

STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

Man rebels against God • Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–24



Lesson Summary

Adam and Eve sinned by following Satan’s temptation and their own thoughts and desires. Their disobedience brought spiritual death to all mankind and a curse affecting all of creation. God always judges sin, but God is good and kind—even in the curse God promised a Savior who would conquer Satan and provide a way for all who believe to be saved from the curse and from death.

Spotlight on the Gospel

Man was made in God’s image in order to enjoy holy fellowship with Him, but now sin separates man from God. In response, God sent another man, Jesus, to rescue man from sin. Unlike Adam, Jesus lived in perfect obedience to God. When we trust in Him, our polluted nature is crucified with Him, and His righteous life is credited to us, so that once again we may live as friends of our holy Creator.

LAST WEEK



God creates man
and woman

Genesis 1:26–31; 2:7–24

THIS WEEK



Man rebels against God

Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–24

NEXT WEEK



Cain rebels against God

Genesis 4:1–15

CREATION

FALL

Lesson Commentary

Man sinned against God by disobeying His word.

Genesis 1 teaches the nature of God: He is the good, all powerful King. Genesis 1–2 teach the nature of man: he alone is made in God’s image in all creation. Genesis 3 is about sin: the evil that separates God and man.

Adam and Eve sinned (2:16–17; 3:1–6)

God gave Adam a specific command. He told Adam not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (2:16–17). But the man and woman did not obey God. Instead they obeyed their own desires and followed the temptation of Satan. **Temptation** is an attractive invitation to sin based on the lie that disobedience produces happiness. We are tempted by both Satan and our own sinful desires. Satan, taking the form of a serpent, tempted the woman in three ways. First, he targeted the weakness of woman. He waited until the woman was alone, when Adam, her leader and protector, was absent (1 Tim 2:13–14).

Second, Satan questioned what God said. The serpent did not immediately contradict God. He started with what seemed to be an innocent question (3:1), but the question was not innocent, for it assumed God had forbidden them from eating from any tree. In reality, God allowed them to eat from every tree but one. Only after this subtle attack did Satan directly contradict God’s word, telling the woman that she would “not surely die” if she ate from the fruit (3:4).

Finally, Satan tempted the woman by suggesting that God’s command was unfair. The serpent lied to the woman, claiming that God gave the command out of a selfish desire to protect His own position as king of the universe (3:5).

Eve followed Satan’s temptation and her own sinful desires when she did what she wanted rather than obey God’s word. Adam, instead of protecting and leading his wife in righteousness, followed her into sin

(3:6). **Sin** is disobeying God in thought, word or action. It includes both doing what God says not to do as well as not doing what God says to do.

Whereas Eve was deceived by the serpent, Adam was not (1 Tim 2:14). As the leader who failed to lead, and as the one who knowingly rebelled against God, Adam was held responsible for **the fall**, when both he and Eve, and all humans after them (except Jesus), became separated from God by sin (Rom 5:12).

Adam and Eve’s decision to eat from the tree was more than just wanting knowledge. It was turning away from dependence on God as the source of right and wrong. It was declaring independence from God and setting themselves in God’s place as the ones who get to decide what is good and bad. They tried to take God off of His throne as king and make themselves king instead.

Adam and Eve were separated from God (3:7–13)

The consequence of Adam and Eve’s sin was death, both spiritual and physical (Gen 2:17). The effects of spiritual death took place immediately, and eventually physical death followed (5:5). But the effects of their sin were not limited to death. Every aspect of life was stained by sin. First, they felt guilty and ashamed, and their relationship with one another was damaged (3:7). Second, instead of enjoying friendship with God, they were now afraid to be near God (3:8–10). Sin separates us from God (Isa 59:2). Sin destroys the very reason for man’s existence. Man was made in the image of God to reflect His character, but because of sin, man is unable to accurately represent God and seeks instead to live for his own praise. Third, their hearts became hard. God asked a number of questions to give them the opportunity to repent (Gen 3:9–11), but they refused to confess their sin and instead blamed others (3:12–13).

THINK ABOUT IT

We sin, just like the first man and woman, when we are not content with God’s provision.



STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

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God punished Adam and Eve's sin but also gave hope (3:14–24)

God judged their sin with a **curse**, declaring the evil that would be felt by Satan, the man and woman, and all of creation as the result of sin. But even in the curse God displayed His grace.



THINK ABOUT IT

Genesis 3:15 is often called the "first gospel" because it is the earliest declaration of Jesus's victory over Satan.

First, He cursed the serpent, both the animal that had become Satan's tool and Satan himself who had appeared as a serpent (3:14). The curse on Satan also affects mankind, for God causes the children of Satan (John 8:44) and the

children of the woman to be enemies (Gen 3:15). In this curse is the greatest grace—there will come one particular child of the woman who will defeat Satan once and for all. Satan would wound the promised Savior, but in the end the Savior would triumph.

Second, God also judged the woman, showing that even though she was deceived by Satan, she was still responsible for her actions. Because of her sin, she would find pain in the place where she should have found her greatest joy—in her role as mother and wife (3:16). The joy of children would be marred by the pain of bearing and raising children. In marriage, she would be tempted to dominate her husband instead of submitting to him ("desire" means a desire to control, as in Gen 4:7), and her husband would be tempted to rule tyrannically, or unfairly, over her instead of lovingly leading her.

But even in this pain there is grace. This judgment implies that there will be children. Through these children God would bring about redemption, so women are called to find hope in raising children to fear God (1 Tim 2:15). Not only that, but all people, men and women, can be saved through one of Eve's descendants, the perfect man, Jesus.

Finally, God judged the man by cursing his sphere of work, the ground (Gen 3:17–19). Work is a good thing, a blessing Adam enjoyed before the fall. But now work would be hard, painful, and less productive. This toil ends only at death, another result of the fall (3:19). Because the ground is cursed as a result of Adam's sin, all creation suffers (Rom 8:20).

Yet again, in the curse there is a blessing. Though work will be hard, God still provides food, even from the cursed ground. Though Adam and Eve were driven away from Eden and removed from God's presence, God graciously provided clothes to cover their nakedness, a symbol of the Lamb of God who would one day die to cover the sins of all who repent (Gen 3:21–24; John 1:29).

In the midst of sin and judgment, the story ends with hope: Adam named his wife Eve because he believed God's promise that she would bear children, through whom would come redemption, the repairing of the relationship between God and man (Gen 3:20).

Lesson Outline

Man sinned against God by disobeying His word.

AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE



1. Adam and Eve disobeyed God (2:16–17; 3:1–6).
2. Adam and Eve could not be near God (3:8, 24).
3. God promised a Savior to rescue Adam and Eve from sin (3:15, 21).

AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE



1. Adam and Eve sinned (2:16–17; 3:1–6).
 - Satan questioned God’s Word (3:1).
 - Eve doubted God’s Word. She made God seem unfair (2:16–17; 3:2–3).
 - Satan said that God was a liar and was keeping her from a good thing (3:4–5).
 - Eve ate the fruit because it seemed good to her, and Adam ate too (3:6–7).
2. Adam and Eve were separated from God (3:7–13).
 - They now knew good and evil by experiencing evil, so they felt guilty (3:7).
 - They did not want to be with God, so they hid (3:8–10).
 - They did not repent right away but instead blamed others (3:11–13).
3. God punished Adam and Eve’s sin but also gave hope (3:14–24).
 - God gave pain in Satan’s enmity, but hope in a Savior to crush Satan (3:14–15).
 - God gave Eve pain in childbirth and marriage, but hope in having children (3:16, 20).
 - God gave Adam pain by making work hard, but hope in having food to eat (3:17–19).
 - God gave pain in death, but hope in one who would die in their place (3:19–21).
 - God gave pain by driving them from Eden, but hope by covering their shame (3:21–24).



TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

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Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

- 1. What could Adam and Eve eat in the garden of Eden?**
Fruit from all the trees but one.
- 2. Who lied to Eve, saying that she would not die?**
The serpent, Satan.
- 3. Did Adam and Eve eat from the forbidden tree?**
Yes. This was sin.
- 4. Did Adam and Eve die?**
Yes. They did not die right away but they did die eventually.



Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

- 1. What was the one commandment that Adam and Eve had to obey when God put them in the garden?**
Do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- 2. How did the serpent tempt Eve?**
First, the serpent began to place doubts about God in Eve's mind by having her question God's word and God's character. Then he told her a lie and said that she would not die if she ate from the tree.
- 3. By saying these things to Eve, what was the serpent saying about God?**
The serpent was calling God a liar. But God is not a liar. The serpent was the liar.
- 4. What two things did Eve do after listening to the serpent?**
She ate of the fruit and then gave some to Adam, and he ate.
- 5. When God came to the garden to meet with Adam and Eve, what did they do and why?**
They hid because they were ashamed of their disobedience and afraid of God.
- 6. In what way did Adam and Eve immediately die after they ate from the tree?**
Spiritually. Eventually, they died physically as well. They were separated from God in a way that they hadn't been before. It was as though a wall of sin came between God and them.
- 7. What judgments did God bring on Adam and Eve?**
God judged Eve and now she would find pain in her role as mother and wife. God judged Adam by cursing the ground Gen 3:17–19. Work would be hard, painful, and less productive.
- 8. What blessings did God provide Adam and Eve?**
God promised a Savior who would triumph over sin and Satan. God still provided food, even from the cursed ground. God graciously provided clothes to cover their nakedness.

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



TREE RUBBINGS

Give each child a simple construction-paper cutout of a tree. Have each child place a blank piece of paper on top of the cutout tree and use crayons to make a rubbing of the tree. Talk about God making all different types of trees. Ask the children what grows on trees and how we use trees. Explain that in today's lesson, Eve takes fruit from a tree that God told her not to eat from. Ask the children what they think will happen to Eve.

FORBIDDEN-FRUIT CIRCLE

Have the children stand in a circle. While music is playing, have the children pass a piece of fruit around the circle. When the music stops, the child holding the fruit steps out of the circle, and the game continues in the same fashion until there is one person left. Explain that in today's lesson they will learn about Adam and Eve taking the forbidden fruit.



SERPENT'S LIES

While teaching the lesson, use a snake puppet to repeat Satan's lies to the class. After each statement, ask the children, "Was that the truth?" Let them answer with a bold "no." Share with them what God really said.

TEMPTATION HAND MOTIONS

Eve listened to the serpent's lies. *(Put hand to ear; hiss)*
Forbidden fruit opened their eyes. *(Place closed fists in front of eyes; pop fingers open.)*
They hid from God; they were ashamed. *(Cover front of body with hands and arms.)*
They knew that they had disobeyed. *(Shake head back and forth.)*



THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL

See *Year 1 Craft Book, Book 1*.

Materials: White paper, crayons, glue, rainbow colored mini marshmallows.

Directions: Give each child a copy of a simple tree drawing on white paper, and have him color it. Next have him glue rainbow marshmallows on for fruit. Give each child a copy of the key verse to glue onto the page. Tell the children that the fruit looked good to eat.

Variation: Have the children glue marshmallows to the "Eve and the Serpent" coloring sheet at the back of this lesson.

The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil
See *Year 1 Craft Book, Book 1*



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AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

HIDE AND SEEK

Play a version of hide-and-seek by hiding pictures of Adam and Eve. Have children search for Adam and Eve as God did. Even when we are well hidden, does God know where we are? When we left Adam and Eve last week, they were enjoying God's fellowship in the Garden of Eden. In today's Bible lesson, Adam and Eve will try to hide from God. Why do you suppose they would do this? Is it possible to hide from God? Read Psalm 139:7–12.

GARDEN OF EDEN MURAL

Tear off two long sheets of butcher paper. Place the sheets of paper on the floor or on separate tables. Gather materials for the children to use to decorate these sheets of paper (crayons, markers, paints, etc.). As each child arrives at class, assign him a section of the paper and instruct him to draw trees and plants, recreating the Garden of Eden. Display the mural as you teach the Bible lesson. Use the review questions as you sit with children making the mural. When you are done, tell the children that these murals will be part of the lesson.



ILLUSTRATE

EDEN OBJECT LESSON

As you study through the Bible lesson, think of various objects to use as you teach. You could bring in fruit for the tree of knowledge, clothes for the curse, and weeds for the curse on the ground. Use these objects as you teach the Bible lesson.

HOUSE RULES FOR THE GARDEN OF EDEN

During the Bible lesson ask children to share rules given to them in various areas of life: home, school, Sunday school, library, etc. List several categories on the board, and add rules children give under each category. Point out that there are many rules we have to obey throughout life. Emphasize that God gave only one rule for Adam and Eve to obey (Gen 2:16–17).

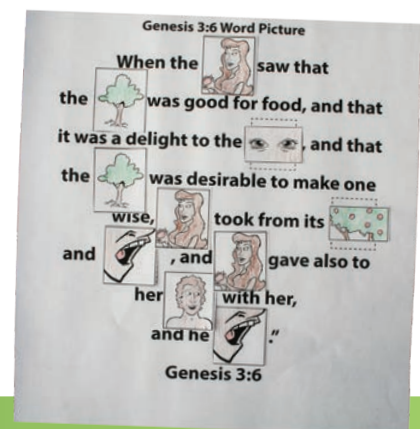


APPLY

GENESIS 3:6 WORD PICTURE

See Year 1 Craft Book, Book 1. Make copies of both pages in the Craft Book. Have the children cut out the pictures and paste them in the appropriate places to complete the verse. If there is time remaining, have the children color the pictures.

Genesis 3:6 Word Picture
See Year 1 Craft Book, Book 1



AGES 9–11



INTRODUCE

THE TEMPTER

Arrange to borrow a non-venomous snake from a local pet store or from someone you know. Bring the animal to class and allow children to observe it. You could also bring in a replica of a snake or various pictures of different kinds of snakes if you're unable to locate a live snake. Tell children that in today's lesson they will learn how Satan, in the form of a serpent, tempted Eve to disobey God. Using Genesis 3:14–15 share how God cursed the serpent (and Satan) for his deception.

ADAM, EVE, AND A SNAKE

To prepare children for the day's lesson, reenact the scene from Genesis 3:1–6.



ILLUSTRATE

WAD OF WEEDS

Bring several different weeds from your yard. See if children can identify some of them. What problems do they cause? Were weeds a part of God's perfect creation? Were there weeds in the Garden of Eden? When did weeds become a problem? (It would be interesting to have a farmer or landscaper lead this discussion. He might share something about the effort it takes to overcome the effects of weeds on his crops.)

LIE DETECTOR

Bring in a picture of a lie detector. Describe how this machine helps to determine if someone is telling the truth. Explain that in today's lesson Satan lied to Eve in order to persuade her into disobeying God. Ask the children if they know how Eve could have checked to see if Satan was telling her the truth. Explain that Eve had everything she needed to examine the claims of Satan. All she needed was the word of God. God never lies, and everything He says is true. Eve needed only to compare what the serpent said to what God had told her to determine if he was telling the truth.



APPLY

CATCH AND REVIEW

With children standing in a circle, toss a rubber ball from one child to another. The one who catches the ball answers the next question (*use Lesson Questions*).