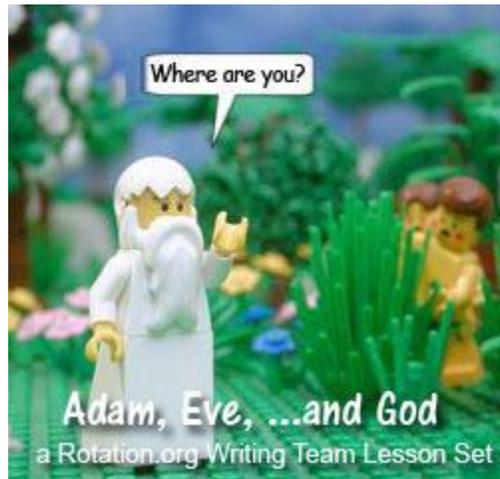


Adam, Eve, and God



Bible Background for the Lesson Set

Scripture

Passage: Genesis 2:4 through Genesis 3:24

Key/Memory Verses: "Since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." Romans 3:23-24 (NRSV)

"See, I am making all things new." Rev 21:5

Summary

Theologians like to teach that the story of Adam and Eve is mainly about "the origin of sin." when on a personal level it's about us trying to hide our sins from God, being caught, and throwing blame on others. This is the life application direction which the lessons in this set take, and we think it is an especially important emphasis for children who need to know they can always come to God with their problems and sins.

God knows we are not perfect, that we will sin, and still --God comes looking for us and calling "Where are you?" (Gen 3:9) When we sin, we need to respond to God, admit our sin, and ask for God's help.

God gives us choices, expects obedience, and yes, God knows we will sin. We are tempted by many things. God calls us to come forward. But then we sin again by hiding and blaming. And when we do that, God's world has consequences,

But here is the good news not often taught in this story: God clothes and God goes with us into a difficult world (Gen 3:21). God makes a Covenant with these very same sinners to never abandon them. And eventually, through the prophets, Jesus, and the rest of the New Testament, God promises a new kingdom, a new paradise.

Learning Objectives for the Lessons in this Set

Our Writing Team has created ten different lessons about Adam and Eve using different teaching techniques and mediums. [Read their summaries here!](#)

After enjoying a number of lessons in this set, students should be able to:

- Find the story in the book of Genesis.
- Retell the story in their own words. (*Note: For older children and youth it is recommended that they learn the entire story. For younger children, it is recommended that they use an abbreviated storybook version. It is important that older students especially take the time to learn the whole story.*)
- State in their own words some of the various conclusions or meanings of the story.
- Identify temptations and wrong choices in their own lives and ways to be obedient to God.
- Know that God has forgiven them even when they do wrong and is our guide to doing right.
- Understand that the punishment and banishment of Adam and Eve was not the "end of the story," but that God promises to bring a new heaven and earth (paradise) and will dwell with his people (Rev 21).

Bible Background

Dear Teacher,

What a beautiful, intriguing, and amazing story you are about to teach. The story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden has mesmerized and perplexed people of faith for three millennia. Its images permeate our secular and religious culture: *Man and rib, Eden and forbidden fruit, Tree of Life, sexuality and sin, crime and punishment, "The Fall," God's evening walk in the garden, casting blame, being cast out, fig leaves, toil and childbearing.*

The first story about people in the Bible asks some of faith's most important questions:

- Who are we?
- Why didn't God make us perfect?
- What happens when we disobey God?
- What does God want?
- Will we ever get back to paradise?

The story is so well-known that you might not be prepared to see some startling new insights, such as:

- They sin, but God waits until the evening to come looking. Why does he wait?
- They hide, but the all-knowing God who knows where they are, still calls their names, giving them a chance to step forward.
- They grab fig leaves; but God makes clothing to cover their shame.
- God throws them out of the garden, but we know from the rest of the Bible that God goes with them!
- And then there is the wonderful testimony of the New Testament... that Adam and Eve's sin has been forgiven, and a new heaven and earth are coming, a new paradise where we are renewed, and God will dwell with us in a personal way (Rev 21).

Is Adam and Eve "history"? No, their story is something much more important and more profound than what we in the modern era define as "history." This is the beginning of God's story of redemption --a story that goes from a garden called "Eden" to a garden called "Gethsemane." It is a story that begins with the first Adam's disobedience, and ends with the "second Adam" sweating blood as he chooses obedience (obedience "even to death on a cross." Phil 2)



Did Adam and Eve really exist? Yes, go look in the mirror. This isn't a story about the first two people and how they were made. This is a story about how YOU are made, and how you act, and what God is going to do about it.

It isn't even a story about the "origin of sin" as some theologians have be-labored. This story is rigged from the start: Everyone who's ever heard it knows the moment God says, "don't touch that tree" — knows we will touch that tree! God knows it too: The moment he plants the tree God knows we will screw up. Thus, the question is not "Where did sin come from," but rather, "How should we respond to our sin?" and "How does God respond to our sin?"

A lot of people say that this is a story "about sin" when it's really about **redemption**. The same God who knows what they've done still comes to them and calls them by name, saying, "where are you." Yet of course God knows exactly where they are and what they've done. Of course they sinned. Of course they hid. Of course they cast blame. Of course God knows (and probably knew ahead of time)! And of course God casts them out. Sin and lack of repentance have consequences!



But that's not where the story ends.

This "cast out" ending is where many stop teaching the story of Adam and Eve, **but that's NOT where the scripture ends their story.** The scripture gives them fig leaves, and then God makes them clothes out of animal skins to cover their sin. These are metaphors for redemption. God clothes us, God covers our sin. And about a thousand pages later we learn that God clothes us with his righteousness and covers our sins with his forgiveness.

And then God goes with them. God does not abandon. God is the Good Shepherd -- even to the lost sheep. And God eventually sends his Son to them to guide them back. God plants a new tree, and hangs redemption on it. And by the time we get to the last book of the Bible, we are reading about a new paradise where there is no weeping or death, "where behold, I will make all things new." (Rev 21:5).



Every student should know what these images in the story stand for:

- Rib = God makes us companions and helpers for one another
- Garden = God's desire and gifts for our lives
- Tree of Life, Tree of Knowledge of Good & Evil = Listen to God or don't listen, Choose what God wants, or decide you can make your own choices.
- Fruit = Choices and Consequences. Right and wrong.
- Serpent = The Temptation to think we know better than God.
- Bushes = We think we can hide from God!
- Evening Breeze = God waits and calls out to us (knowing what we've done)
- Nakedness and Fig Leaves = Shame and Cover up
- Animal skin clothing = God's parting gift to cover our shame.

Questions to ask children

- "What things do people do to disobey God?"
- "What tempts you?"

- "Why do God's children hide from God rather than admit they are wrong?"
- "How do you hide your sins from God?"
- "How will God deal with us if we admit our wrong-doing?"
- "What does God give us to live obedient lives?"
- "What do you do to be a better child of God?"
- "What bad choices, attitudes and actions in your life do you need to admit?"
- "How and when do you admit your sins to God?"
- "What can you start doing to live a more obedient life and stay away from wrongdoing?"
- "What can we do for each other as companions to help each other obey God?"

Bible Background Written by (Rev.) Neil MacQueen

Adam & Eve

Video / Audio Visual Workshop

Summary of Lesson Activity

Students will watch a video about the Adam and Eve story and discuss it. They will look at the vision of the new paradise described in Revelation 21. Optional follow-up activities are suggested below.

Video: The Greatest Adventure, Stories from the Bible: The Creation *

This video is from the "Hanna-Barbera animated Bible series." This late 80's animated series is widely available, still appeals, and teaches the story. Full length copies of this video can be found on [YouTube](#), but some are lower resolution. Surprisingly, there are very few videos available for this story of any quality. Some interject peculiar theology or interpret the story rather than retell it.

* The Adam-Eve-Tree story in "The Creation" video starts at about the 10 minute mark in the following clip and runs for about 15 minutes to the end of the video. It begins with the "modern explorers" who suddenly find themselves near the Garden of Eden and soon learn its story.

** See the "Adaptations" at the end of this lesson plan for additional video choices.

Scripture

Passage: Genesis 2:4-3:24

Key/Memory Verse: "He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them...." Rev 21:3

Objectives for the Rotation

- See [Bible Background](#).

Objectives for Video Workshop

- The children will learn that the story of Adam & Eve is found in the Book of Genesis, the first book of the Bible.
- The children will form a definition of "paradise" (the kind of world they want to live in, and that God wants for them).

- The children will learn that sin and disobedience have consequences, but that God still goes with us into the world, and will eventually bring us into a new creation.

Preparation

- Read [Bible Background](#) and scripture.
- Preview the video.
- Write at the top of one large sheet of paper: "Revelation 21:1-2," leaving room for student writing. On a second sheet write "Revelation 21:3." On a third sheet, write "Revelation 21:4," and on the fourth sheet write "Revelation 21:5a." (Note: If you are concerned about having enough time for the reflection exercise, you may wish to also write out the verses using a more kid-friendly version such as the [NirV](#).)
- On the whiteboard write: "Revelation 21:1-5a."

Materials List

- Video - *Creation* from Hanna Barbera's - Greatest Adventures Series
- Bibles
- A whiteboard or easel, and appropriate marker
- Four large sheets of paper; markers or pens; tape
- A small blanket (optional)

Lesson Plan

Opening

Welcome your students and then introduce today's story by doing the following . . .

Once everyone is settled, explain that we are going to be seeing a video of the story of Adam and Eve, which is found in the Book of Genesis. Our story comes right after the story of Creation.

Do: See how much of the story they already know.

To Read or not read the scripture:

Because the video in this lesson closely follows the biblical story, and because this lesson concludes with a reading/study from scripture, you may choose to start your lesson without reading the entire story in Genesis 2 (it is long). Or you might choose to read a short version from a storybook-style Bible (illustrated paraphrase).

Prepare

Prior to showing the video...

- Ask students to define "paradise," and describe the kind of "paradise" they would think is best.
- Have them describe what "paradise" might look like for the entire world. What would be in it? How would people act? Write their responses on the whiteboard.
- Ask how God would define the idea of "paradise." Write their responses on the whiteboard.
- Tell students that at the end of the video/story Adam and Eve are thrown out of paradise and we are told humans can never go back to paradise. But the very end of the video suggests maybe we CAN get back to paradise. Tell them to **watch for this hint** and notice the shape of the flaming sword (a cross). You'll be discussing it.

Show the Video Clip

After viewing the video of the story ask students the following questions:

1. Why do you suppose Adam and Eve chose to disobey God?
2. Why do you sometimes disobey your parents?
3. Why do you sometimes disobey God?
4. When God came looking for them, what did Adam and Eve do? (they hid)
Note: You might dramatize this point a bit by tossing a blanket over a student, coming up with a story of some sin they committed, and asking the others "is God fooled?" and "What do you suppose God thinks about this person trying to hide from God?" Being both fun and demonstrative, the blanket will definitely help focus the questions and drive home the point of the story.
5. What was God's reaction to their attempt to hide their sin from God? (sadness, anger)
6. What punishment and gift did God give Adam and Eve at the end of the story? (punishment: banishment from the garden & labor; gift: clothes to cover their shame)
7. Do you think banishment was the end of the story? Was this banishment really permanent or did you get the sense that maybe we can get back to

paradise one day? What was the shape of the flaming sword? (a cross!)

"First Book to Last Book" Study (the return to paradise)

Say: I want you to turn in your Bibles to the very last book, the Book of Revelation. You have heard from Genesis, the very first book of the Bible, the beginning story, and now you're going to hear from the last book and one of the very last chapters in the Bible. Read Revelation 21:1-5 aloud with me.

Do: Refer to the whiteboard where you have written "Revelation 21:1-5a."

Point out that you will be stopping your reading after the first portion of verse 5. The lowercase "a" means only read the first part of a verse; stop after the closing punctuation mark.

Do: Read Revelation 21:1-5a together.

Say: This is John's vision of a new paradise. And we are all invited to it by Jesus. Quite literally, Jesus opens the door to paradise for us.

Ask: What do you suppose this new paradise is going to be like?

Ask: How will sinful people like us be able to enter into this new paradise? (by the grace of God)

Reflect

Hand out the four large sheets of paper (each one corresponding to a section of the Rev 21 passage). Divide students among the sheets. Distribute markers. Tell them to write their verse(s) on the sheet in large letters (unless this has already been done ahead of time) and to add illustrations and images and words that depict what their verse(s) describe.

After they have completed their drawing, post the drawings on the wall and ask some final "what about now?" life application questions that correspond to that vision, such as:

- "How is our church like a New Jerusalem, a city of God's people?"
- "How is God with us right now?"
- "How does our church wipe away tears, comfort people?"

- "What kinds of things can you 'renew' (make new) in your life?" (relationships, commitment, promises to God, restore Creation, etc.)

Finally, share that Jesus taught us not to sit back passively and wait for a new paradise. Rather, he gave us the vision of a paradise called the Kingdom of God, which can pop up in this world in small ways, such as, through acts of kindness and compassion. Like Adam and Eve helped take care of Creation, so we too are to help take care of it, and help God restore Creation to God's beautiful plan.

Close

Conclude with by saying the Lord's Prayer together, but alert the children that they are to substitute the word "PARADISE" for the word "KINGDOM."

Adam & Eve

Cooking Workshop

Summary of Lesson Activity

Make "super sour temptation candy" to illustrate (and taste) the nature of temptation. At first, temptation often looks appealing and may seem "sweet," but disobedience to God usually leaves a sour "taste."

God knows what is best for us. What we often think is good for us, is not good. Disobeying God's rules for life leave a sour taste in our mouth. They upset us and God. But God calls us, goes with us into a difficult world, and promises to help us resist temptation.

Scripture

Passage: Genesis 2:4 through Genesis 3:24

Key/Memory Verse: "Since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." Romans 3:23-24 (NRSV)

Objectives for the Rotation

See [Bible Background](#).

Preparation

- Read [Bible Background](#) and scripture.
- Test "sour gummy" recipe and instructions the day before by preparing a tray of "sour gummies." Bring to church as your backup tray if needed.

Materials List

- Bibles
- Chalkboard or Whiteboard or Newsprint (marker for your choice)
- Ingredients from the Recipe (see below)
 - 3 envelopes unflavoured gelatin
 - 2 packages Jell-O, any flavor
 - 1/2 package Kool-Aid, any flavor (sour apple or lemon would be best)
 - Bowl of sugar to dip finished gummies in
- Mixing bowls and spoons
- Plastic wrap to line the pan
- Plastic knives to cut finished candy
- 2 qt pot for cooking the gummies
- Pan for cooling the gummies
- Pam spray for pan
- Pot holder
- Baggies and 3x5 cards to make "go home" candy bags with slogans.

Lesson Plan

Opening

Welcome your students and then introduce today's story by doing the following . . .

Write the word "***Temptation***" on the board and ask them to define it. Write their comments. Tell them that today's lesson is about temptation, and they will be making "temptation gummies" as a reminder of the lesson.

★ **You now need to make the sour gummies!** ★

They will take about 10 minutes to make, and 20 minutes to cool.
[Refer to the recipe shown at the end of the lesson.]

Dig

...while the gummies are cooling in the refrigerator...

Brainstorm things people are tempted by using real-life temptation scenarios. Ask them "what's the temptation?"

- You find \$10 on the floor at home
- You're taking a test and can see someone else's test answers.
- You forgot your homework and a friend hands you theirs to copy...
- You see your sibling doing something wrong and you are tempted to...
- A friend says something really nasty to your face and you are tempted to...
- You wanted to sleep in this morning instead of coming to church...
- (Add your own)

Say: When we talk about temptation in the Church, we are usually talking about being tempted to disobey God.

Take turns reading through the story of Adam and Eve from Genesis 2:4 - 3:24.

Ask: What were Adam and Eve tempted by? (the promise that they would be like God if they ate from the fruit)

Ask: What was God's response to them giving in to temptation and eating the fruit? (God called them by name. It is God *calling them to confess*, because already he knows where they are and what they have done)

Ask: Do you think God *knew* they would be tempted to eat the fruit?

Say: The problem with temptation is that it can be a very strong feeling. Another problem with temptation is that it often at first feels satisfying! (This is an important point to make.)

When we are tempted to keep money that isn't ours, we feel richer.
When we are tempted to cheat on a test, we feel like we might do better.
When we are tempted to say bad words to someone, it can momentarily

make us feel good.

When we are tempted to ignore worshipping God, we feel like we have more rest or fun time.

But often, the things which tempt us taste sweet at first, but then turn sour. Certainly the fruit that Adam and Eve ate turned sour when they realized they had disobeyed God. They felt ashamed.

When we are tempted to do wrong, we need to remember that God knows what is right.

God knows what is truly sweet, and what is sour for us.

Reflect

Remove the pans of gummy candy from the refrigerator. Lift the candy out of the pans using the plastic wrap and flip it over onto a clean cutting surface. Peel off the plastic wrap and cut the candy into sections, one for each student.

Let students cut shapes that remind them of the story of Adam and Eve -- fruits, snake, tree.

As they cut, let them taste-test their candy!

Now have them roll their gummies in sugar. Ask them why we are doing that, and the answer from your discussion should be clear. The things we are tempted by often seem sweet!

Have everyone eat one of their candies as you reinforce the main point: God knows what is best for us. Disobeying God's rules for life leave a sour taste in our mouth. But like Adam and Eve, even though our sins are sour, God goes with us, loves us, forgives us, helps us resist temptation.

Finally, have them place their remaining candies in a baggie and have them write some "slogans" on a 3x5 card to be placed in the bag as a reminder. Possible slogans: "Obeying God never leaves a sour taste in your mouth." "Sin puckers your soul. Always tell the truth." "Lying sours life and relationships."

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS

Adaptations - Younger Children: Read from a storybook Bible. Do not let the children stir the hot candy. Rather, you might have the gummy candy pre-made and let them spend more time cutting the finished candy into shapes.

Adaptations - Older Children: You could let them make their own blends of Koolaid® and Jello®, plus a little citric acid powder. Be careful not to overuse the citric powder as it is an acid.

SUPER SOUR GUMMY RECIPE

3 envelopes unflavored gelatin

2 packages Jell-O, any flavor

1 cup water

1/2 package Kool-Aid, any flavor (sour apple or lemon would be best)

Bowl of granulated sugar to roll finished candies in to give the sour candy an initial sweet flavor.

Optional: Add 1 tsp of powdered citric acid (a food additive found in many pharmacies) for extra "sourness." You might also use sour apple Jello or Lemonade Kool-Aid.

Instructions:

1. Line an 8-inch square baking pan with plastic wrap. Spray lightly with cooking spray, or spray candy molds. Set aside.
2. Combine dry ingredients in a bowl and set aside.
3. Bring water to boil overheat then add dry ingredients.
4. Stir carefully, slowly and thoroughly until all the dry ingredients have dissolved.

5. Pour the candy slowly and carefully into the prepared pan, or spoon into the molds.
6. Place the candy in the refrigerator to set. (Approximately 20 minutes). To speed up cooling, place the pan on top of ice, being careful it doesn't tip.
7. Once set, lift the gummy candy out of the pan using the plastic wrap.
8. Carefully flip the candy onto a cutting surface and remove the wrap (slowly).
9. Candy can now be cut into fruits, snakes, etc, using a sharp knife.
10. After cutting into shapes, roll candy in granulated sugar. You may need to slightly wet the candy to get the sugar to stick. (The sugar coating illustrated the nature of things we are tempted by.) The sugar coating will also help the candy not stick within the baggies.

Options:

Make two different pans using two different flavors of Koolaid. Consider adding extra Koolaid or extra citric acid to make a "really pucker-y batch!"

Notes:

You want your gummy candy to taste very very tart to drive home the point of the lesson. It should make them pucker. Concentrated Koolaid and concentrated Jello not only have sugar, they have concentrated amounts of citric acid to provide the tartness. It is the concentration of flavors and citric acid which give sour gummies their sour flavor.

Some people, especially older ones, have a higher tolerance for "sour," so you may want to provide a bit of extra powdered citric acid to let the kids get it to the level of 'sour' they will find instructive!

Do not add more water than the recipe calls for or your candy solution will not set. Place the candy pan in a large bowl of ice while in the refrigerator to speed setting.

Adam & Eve

Computer Workshop

Summary of Lesson Activity

Students will interact with the story of Adam and Eve using **Awesome Bible Stories software** (Sunday Software) for elementary and younger youth.

Awesome Bible Stories has a fun animation of the story, and a collection of narrated study notes that dig into the concepts and vocabulary of the story.

Within the software they will create an apology for Adam & Eve to God and learn about the "language of apology, asking forgiveness."

The software is interactive, and best used on multiple stations to suit your class size. But due to the nature of the particular story presentation in the software, it could easily be projected on a wall from a laptop as well.



Note: Awesome Bible Stories is now available free-of-charge to the supporting members of Rotation.org. [Learn more and download the software!](#)

Scripture

Passage: Genesis 2:4-3:24

Key/Memory Verse: "Since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." Romans 3:23-24 (NRSV)

Objectives for the Rotation

See [Bible Background](#).

Objectives for Computer Workshop

- The children will learn that the story of Adam & Eve is found in the Book of Genesis, the first book of the Bible.

- The children will make the connection that "honesty is the best policy" — like Adam & Eve, we cannot run away from God.
- The children will explore the language of "apology" when they do wrong.

Preparation

- Read [Bible Background](#) and scripture.
- Print the [student worksheet](#), check those items you want the students to complete and then make copies of your worksheet for the class.
- Print the [teacher's guide](#) from Sunday Software.
- Preview the software.

Materials List

- Awesome Bible Stories (Sunday Software).
- Chalkboard or Whiteboard or Newsprint (marker for your choice)

Lesson Plan

Open

Welcome your students and then introduce today's story by doing the following . . .

See how much the children know of the story already by having them outline on a whiteboard as much as they can remember.

The software retells the Bible story in a humorous fashion. Thus, if this is the first week of the Rotation, you might read the biblical version as a group from Bibles before going into the software. For younger children, use a storybook.

Give each student a copy of the Adam and Eve worksheet and explain what it is you want them to do when they get in the software.

Dig (Story and Study)

Have students turn on the Awesome Bible Stories software, Adam & Eve section and play the story.

After viewing the story, have the students work through the worksheet you printed — looking at the interactive study notes in the program which you have chosen for them and marked on the worksheet. (There are about 7 notes, and you may wish to pick 4 or 5 depending on your needs).

Depending on the size of your lab and number of students, you may want to work through the study questions together as a group after each listens to them on their own at their computers. Some of these subjects are BIG and you may want to run with them a little more by gathering the entire class at one computer.

Reflect

On the printed worksheet towards the bottom, students can pick or be assigned one of the following statements to respond to using the "Gabby Talker" activity.

If you have five or more computers, assign each of the following to a different workstation. If you have just a few computers. Have students respond to these questions one at a time, for all to hear, before moving on to the next.

1. Create an apology that Adam & Eve might have offered to God that day in the garden.
2. Create an apology to God for *your* sins.
3. What would God say to your request for forgiveness?

Play the Adam and Eve "Apples" study note game: "You Can Run But You Cannot Hide."

Additional Suggestions

Adaptations - Younger Children: Younger children and non-readers will certainly enjoy the Awesome Bible Stories software but will need extra help.

Adaptation - Large Group: You can show Awesome Bible Stories on a large screen or projected for a large group and "presented" by the teacher who asks kids to help navigate and respond to onscreen content.

Classroom Handout for Awesome Bible Stories CD ~ Adam & Eve

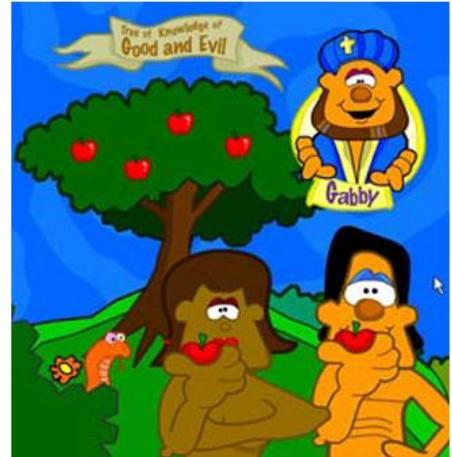
printed from www.sundaysoftware.com/awesome

Your teacher has checked the items to complete.
Start the Awesome Bible CD and go to the Adam & Eve story.

Play the Story

And answer the following questions...

- Why did the serpent want Adam and Eve to eat from the tree?
- Why did Adam & Eve hide from God?
- Why did Adam blame Eve?
- Why did God throw them out of the Garden? Was it because they ate the fruit? Or because they tried to hide their sin and then tried to avoid the blame?
- What did God place at the Garden entrance to keep them from coming back?
- What did God make for Adam and Eve that was a sign of hope at the end of the story?
- How does Jesus' death on the cross complete this story?
-



Plop an Apple on the following Study Notes

- This Story and You** --On the right is the correct graphic which should have appeared in the note. It reads:

“The story of Adam and Eve tells us that God is not happy when we disobey him, and that there are consequences for doing wrong. All human beings, even though we are made in the image of God, have some part of us that thinks we know better than God.

- So how to you listen to God?*
- What do you do that helps you follow and obey God and stay out of trouble?*



- Original Sin** What is it?

How would you explain it to someone?

- Is This Story True?** Does your church teach that Adam and Eve were real people, or that it is just an ancient story that teaches an important truth? And, what do *you* think?

- Garden and Trees** How does Jesus heal the separation between us and God?
- Adam's Name**
- Eve's Name**

Open Gabby Talker and do one of the following:

- Have God tell Adam & Eve what they did wrong.
- Have God tell Adam & Eve what they need to do next.
- Create an apology that Adam & Eve might have offered to God.
- Create an apology to God for your sins.
- Create a response from God about your sins and your request for forgiveness.

- Play the “Hiding from God” game** found in one of the study notes.

Adam & Eve

Bible Skills & Games Workshop

Summary of Lesson Activity

Children will explore the story of Adam and Eve, focusing on things that tempt us, the consequences of sin, and God's response. Through a game activity using large craft sticks, and writing ideas on them from the Bible study, teams will compete to construct what's commonly referred to as an "Cobra Weave," or "Exploding Snake" or "Stick Bomb" to cement the story and its meaning in their memory.

Scripture

Passage: Genesis 2:4-3:24

Key/Memory Verse: "Since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." Romans 3:23-24 (NRSV)

Objectives for the Rotation

See [Bible Background](#).

Preparation

- Read Scripture, Bible background, and lesson.
- Gather supplies.
- Watch various "Exploding Cobra" craft stick demonstration/tutorials on Youtube. They will tell you how to construct the game activity in this lesson. (This activity is also unfortunately found by searching for "stick bomb.")

Among many videos to consult, here is one where a young boy constructs what he calls a "Baby Cobra Weave." (If the video does not show below, [watch it on YouTube](#).)

- After watching the video tutorial on making a "Exploding Cobra" out of sticks, **practice** making an exploding cobra yourself, so that you can teach the kids.
- Print two or three of copies of the [Adam & Eve Story Cards](#) attached to this lesson. You may also wish to print one copy of [The Adam & Eve Cards List](#)

Order.

Optional, Include 3 or 4 cards which are not part of the story, and for this purpose we've included [four blank story cards](#) you can download and edit—maybe pieces of stories they have recently studied.

Materials List

- Bibles
- Two boxes of *large* 'popsicle' craft sticks (tongue depressor size), preferably in different colors
- A carpet/large rug if your classroom has hard floors
- Markers
- White 8 1/2 x 11 Card Stock (to print cards)
- Tape

Lesson Plan

Opening

Welcome your students and then introduce today's story by doing the following . . .

Split the class into two or three groups. Tell them they have 3 minutes to put their stack of story cards ([Adam & Eve Story Cards](#)) in the correct order. If this is the first week of the Rotation, they may need an extra minute or so. Let them do this *apart from the other teams* so there is no cheating!

When time is up, give them 10 seconds to tape their cards on a wall in the correct order. (Limit the taping time so they don't have a chance to look at other team's card order.)

Have the students open their Bibles and read Genesis 2:4-3:24 together. Pause as you read through the story to compare each team's card order. Don't make a point of "who won." The card game is merely a way to focus their attention on the story and reading. If a team didn't do well, remind them that it's a long story, and that's why you're here today: to learn it.

Dig

After reading the story and comparing the card orders, pass out a half dozen big craft sticks to each student. Give each student a marker to write on each stick. (If you have more questions, give out more sticks!)

Present each question to your class *for discussion*, and then have each student write their own individual answer on their craft stick. Note and share in your own words the discussion points with each question.

Questions to answer on the stick:

1. What were Adam and Eve tempted by? Write your answer on a stick.

Note that the question is not "who" tempted Adam and Eve.

A temptation is something you think you will gain for yourself, when you give in to the temptation to take it or do it. They were tempted to "be like God"... which is to say, to make their own rules — to be their own God, instead of obeying God's rules.

2. Name some things people are tempted by. Write several on several sticks.

Note: You may need to prime the pump for this question, by saying things like, "Temptations can be things people think they need, or think they don't need. (*You might write those two temptations on the board "Need" "Don't Need."*)

Need: People are tempted to be cool, to cheat, to lie, to steal. Temptations are things someone may try to convince you will make you better, stronger, smarter, cooler, prettier, wealthier.

Or temptations can be a lie: something you think you don't need, like telling yourself you don't need to worship God, or be good, or read your Bible, or help someone because you are too busy, or to admit when you're wrong.

3. Why did Adam and Eve hide from God? Write your answer on a stick.

Now ask, "Did it work? Can you hide from God?"

"What should Adam and Eve have done after committing their sin?"

4. Which was their bigger sin: eating the forbidden fruit? or hiding from God then blaming each other? Write your answer on a stick.

Note: As you they choose their answer, comment that "confessing our sins" is an important part of our worship. God knows we sin, and wants us to confess we need help, that we need him to guide us to make right choices.

Game: Race to Make an "Exploding Temptation Snake"

Split into two or three teams, and give each team a share of the sticks they've written on. Add additional sticks to their pile as needed.

Demonstrate how to start making an "Exploding Temptation Snake," then give each team approximately 10 minutes to make their own snake. See which team can make the longest snake in that time frame. The faster they move, the more likely they are to accidentally set-off the snake before time is up, or make a mistake.

This is the challenge: to make the longest snake and have it correctly explode when you gather everyone to test the various snakes.

Do this: Place a Bible at the end of each craft stick snake to keep it from prematurely exploding.

After 10 minutes, stop construction and gather the students to watch as each team's snake is "exploded." There is no winner here because everyone will have fun.

Prior to Exploding the Snake, make the following point:

We are all faced with many temptations, some big, some small. It is not a sin to be tempted. Rather, it is a sin to *give-in* to our temptations. And like Adam and Eve learned, it is also a sin to try and hide our sins from God. God wants to both help us resist temptation, and recover from our sins when we make the wrong choice.

Before we explode the snakes, notice the object we have used to keep our temptations from exploding: The Bible. It's guidance tells us right from wrong. It also tells us that no matter what happens, no matter how many of our sins explode! — God is with us to the very end and beyond.

One by one, explode the snakes!

Depending on how much time you have left, do it a second time. Add additional reinforcements as they work. Suggest that the snake of disbelief and "I don't need God" needs to be exploded in their own life.

Close

Give each student a new craft stick. Have them look up the key verse, Romans 3:23-24 and write the verse on their stick. Have them hold out the completed stick in their outstretched palm as you recite this prayer:

Dear God, Thank you for a fun morning together. We are sorry that we do not always make the right choices. But we are glad that you will always be our God. Help us to become more faithful children. Bless this stick as we take it home to remind us of your guiding help and never failing love. Amen.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS

Domino Variation

For very small children, or if you want an additional follow-up activity for older children, set up a row of "domino" blocks (either using real dominos or wood blocks). Before standing them, brainstorm a variety of temptations/sins, writing them on cards and taping to the blocks. Now set up one BIG block at the end of the domino line marked, "My Relationship With God." The point is that our sins, our failure to resist temptations, will ultimately hurt our relationship with God. The first time you do this, allow the God-block to get knocked over. But then ask them whether our sins can separate us from God's love? Of course the answer is NO, so set up the domino line one last time but have a student who represents Christ place their hand between the last domino and God-block. Jesus let's us know that even though we may fall, God does not. God is faithful still.

Adaptations - Younger Children: First graders and younger, may have their manual dexterity challenged by making the snake, so make a small one with them.