

Genesis

Sin Enters The World
(Genesis 2:8 - 3:24)

LESSON WARM UP

Pass out to each child a bean wrapped in a candy wrapper. Tell them you're giving them a special treat. Let the children react as they open the "candies." Discuss how false things can look good and right on the outside, but that they can turn out NOT to be what they thought they were. Explain how it is easy to be deceived.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, the world must have been such a beautiful and perfect place when You first created it. Help us to understand what a terrible thing it was for Adam and Eve to sin. They ruined Your perfect creation. And help us to understand what a terrible thing it is for us to sin. But, Lord, we are so grateful that You are forgiving. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

MEMORY VERSE

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

LESSON

Today we're going to learn what happened after God had created man out of the dust of the earth.

Genesis 2:8-9

The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

God planted a garden full of beautiful trees. Not only were they pleasant to look at, they provided delicious fruit for food.

Notice that there were two special trees in the garden. One was called the *tree of life* and the other was called the *tree of the knowledge of good and evil*. We'll talk more about these in awhile...

Genesis 2:10

Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads.

God provided everything that Adam and all the animals needed. There was plenty of food and water and a gorgeous place to live.

Genesis 2:15

Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

God wanted Adam to be in charge of the garden and all the animals in it. He still wants people to take care of them and to enjoy them. God wants us to be His representatives, ruling creation as God would rule it.

Genesis 2:16-17

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 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."

God gave Adam only one rule to follow. Adam could eat freely of any other tree in the garden. He had plenty of things to do, taking care of the garden and the animals. He also had plenty to eat. He just couldn't eat of that one single tree in the middle of the garden.

Why would God place that one rule on man? Do you think that God wanted to know if they loved Him enough to obey Him?

One day Eve found herself near the forbidden tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 3:1

Now the serpent was more cunning [crafty or tricky] than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

Who is the snake? (Satan!) Notice that he didn't quote God correctly.

Genesis 3:2-3

And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

Satan misquoted God, and now Eve adds to what God said...

Genesis 3:4-5

And the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Here Satan tells the woman that God didn't mean what He says. Satan tries to tell her that she won't really die. But, we know that God means what He says, and says what He means. That's why I'm so thankful to have the Bible. It's important for us to study God's Word and to memorize it, so that we understand exactly what God said. You can trust God's word to be exactly right.

Genesis 3:6

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

Eve was overcome with the desire to be wise. The temptation for power overcame her desire to obey and please God.

This is how sin entered the world. Since then, every person who has been born has a sinful nature, a nature that does not want to please God. Do you know what sin is? It is the wrong things we do. It's the "want to" to do things our own way.

The death God was speaking of when he warned Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was separation from God forever. Where would that be? (*Hell!*) That is the punishment we deserve for our sin, too. Sin is very serious! It causes great unhappiness; it ruined God's perfect creation. How sad that Adam and Eve disobeyed God and caused sin to enter the world.

Genesis 3:7

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

Up to this point, "... *they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*" (Genesis 2:25) But now they knew they were naked and they were very ashamed.

Genesis 3:8-10

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

Adam and Eve were afraid; they knew they had disobeyed God. Have you ever done something wrong and ran off to hide because you didn't want to get caught? That's what Adam and Eve tried to do. But you can't hide from God. He knows everything.

Genesis 3:12-13

Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." And the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

As God questioned them about their sin, Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the serpent. Have you ever tried to blame someone else for something you've done? Has anyone ever blamed you for something *they* did?

Genesis 3:14-15

So the Lord God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity [bitterness and hatred] between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

Here in the first book of the Bible, right after the first sin, God promises to send Someone to do away with Satan. This is about God's promised One, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The Lord Jesus came from Heaven to die on the cross for the sins of the whole world. He died for your sins and mine. He didn't have to do that, because He was perfect. He was willing to die because He loved us. The blood came from His hands and feet as they nailed Him to the cross. (Describe His suffering, emphasizing the seriousness of sin's punishment.)

The Bible says He is the One who "washed us from our sins in His own blood" (Revelation 1:5b.) The Lord Jesus took the punishment for our sins. When the Lord Jesus died, they took Him from the cross. He was buried, but He didn't stay dead. After three days He rose again and is now in Heaven.

Because the Lord Jesus took the punishment of sin on Himself, you can receive God's gift of forgiveness and everlasting life today. The Lord Jesus is the Savior that God promised to send long ago.

Genesis 3:21

Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them."

God made clothes from animal skins to cover Adam and Eve. This was the very first death in the newly created world. An animal had to be killed (it's blood had to be shed) to cover Adam and Eve's sin and shamefulness. This was an example of what God the Son, Jesus, would have to do on the cross to make the final and complete payment for our sin.

Genesis 3:23-24

...therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So He drove out the man and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

God punished Adam and Eve for their disobedience and rebellion by sending them out of the garden.

In His mercy, God set an angel with a sword of fire to guard the entrance of the garden. In this way, God protected Adam and Eve from reentering the garden where they may have eaten from the tree of life and be doomed to live forever in their sin.

Closing Prayer

Lord, because of Adam and Eve's disobedience, everyone is born deserving Your punishment for sin. But we thank Jesus for taking that punishment for us when He died on the cross. Now we can live with You someday and have everlasting life. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

LEARNING CENTERS

Imagination Station

(Craft Center)

Choose from the following craft activities:

1. *Mystery Pictures*

Make pictures using disappearing ink. I saw some Vanishing Crayons in Erick's catalog (see web site listed below) but I'm not sure how they work.

2. Mystery Boxes

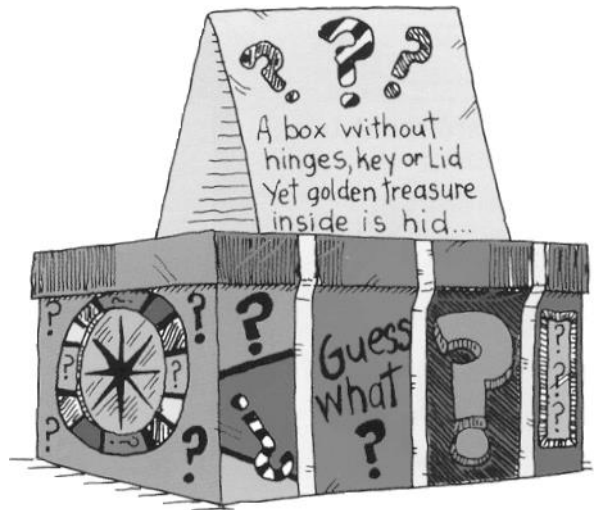
Challenge your friends to discover—by touch only—what lies in your mystery boxes!

Materials

- Shoe box
- Tape
- Scissors
- Paper or fabric
- Markers
- Nature objects
- Index cards

Procedure

For each mystery box, tape the lid onto a shoebox and cut a hole in one end large enough to put your hand through. Cover the hole with paper. Cut slits in the paper in a star shape, so that you can put your hand through, but the hole will still be covered. Alternately, instead of paper, you could hang a small piece of fabric inside the box to cover the hole by forming a curtain. Then decorate the box with markers. (You can also make “feel-y” boxes from oatmeal containers.)



Now put a mystery object inside the box. Remember that your friends trust you, so only use objects that won't harm them or make them feel bad in any way. Try shells, rocks, driftwood, leaves, twigs, or cones. Make up a riddle or a poem to go with each object. Write it on a card and put it on the box.

Let your friends put a hand through the hole and try to guess what the object is. After everyone has made a guess, let someone take the object out for all to see.

Fun House

(Game Center)

True/False Game

1. Before class, write several short sentences about the lesson on slips of paper. Write both true and false statements. Fold the strips of paper and put them in a box.
2. Divide the class into two or more teams. Have the children take turns going to the box and drawing a slip of paper. Read aloud the statement; then let the child say whether the statement is true or false. If the answer is correct, give the child's team 100 points. The team with the most points after the last slip of paper is drawn is the winner.
3. Stress the point that there is only one Truth. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. There are no gray areas about truth.

God's Weird and Wonderful World

(Science Center)

Perform some illusions and talk about how there is only one truth, but lies can look like truth.

1. The Illusion of the Cut and Restored Rope

Use the illusion of the cut and restored rope to illustrate the Fall in the garden. Start off by showing a long rope. Explain that in the beginning God and man had a strong, solid relationship.

But then, along came the serpent... (Drop one end of the rope, and let it wiggle like a snake.) The serpent said, "Did God REALLY say...?" And from then on, every sin for the rest of history can be traced back to those four little words.

Bring up the center of the rope, and as you cut the "center", suggest that sin separates us from God. It changes the relationship. But Adam and Eve tried to "hide" from God — (this is where you tie the ropes together, apparently showing both halves connected by the central knot). They tried to make things like they were, but they could "KNOT" do it. Things were "KNOT" the same. Even though they tried to cover their sin (place your hand over the knot, and make it appear as if the rope were the same as in the beginning), they could "KNOT". (This is where it would "seem" as if the rope were one long piece to someone on the outside looking in, but God knows the truth.)

Then, roll up the rope and tell the children the only way to be forgiven of our sins is to place our trust in Jesus and ask Him for forgiveness. Execute the final move to "restore" the rope and then show it fully complete.

This is a fabulous illustration. If you go to the local library you are sure to find several books on magic tricks, most of which will show you the handling for cutting and restoring a rope. All you get are instructions and one piece of rope.

2. Traffic Light Trick

Another trick for making the point of "things aren't always as they seem", is called the Traffic Light Trick. The basic premise is: some people are (green card) going to heaven because they believe in Christ and have received Him as personal savior. Others are (red card) not going to heaven because they do not accept the Lordship of Jesus. (You can expound on these much more.) And there is no such thing as the "yellow light" (show the yellow card) when it comes to the Kingdom of Heaven. No, Jesus said, you are either for me or against me, there is no middle ground. And in Revelation, He said, "I wish that you were either hot or cold, but because you are lukewarm, I will spew you out of My mouth!"

Then, place all three cards into a folder, and remove them one at a time, asking the kids to help you remember "going" or "not going", based upon the color card you remove. Take out the red, and the green, both times reinforcing the point you made earlier. Then ask, "what color is left over?" At the same time, OBVIOUSLY turn the whole folder around.

When the kids say "yellow", say, "No, remember yellow isn't an option. If you thought yellow was still here, you would be WRONG!" Open the folder to show the word WRONG on the front (former back) side of the card. The kids will all yell for you to turn it around because they will catch your sneaky move. Play with this, turn the FOLDER around... they will yell some more, and so turn the card OVER, so WRONG is spelled upside down. They will yell some more, so show them your back, they will scream even more.

Then, when they can't handle any more — suggest that "maybe, just maybe", one or two of them figured out your trick. But the Bible is clear — there is no trick there — we are either for Jesus or against Him. We're either going to Heaven or we're not. And if you are still looking for the middle ground, or the yellow card, you are not only WRONG... but (turn the card around and it reads...) WRONG AGAIN!

This is a VERY profound illustration — and SOLID from both a Biblical perspective, and technically from the illusion's point of view. It is also very simple. You might want to tailor it specifically to the Genesis story, suggesting the lights represent obeying or disobeying — no shades of gray (or yellow, as the case may be).

There are MANY other illusions that come to mind that would be perfect for illustrating the myriad of concepts you will be teaching.

(For more information on Christian illusions check out www.illustratedillusions.com, or e-mail Erick Reamer at Erick@illustratedillusions.com or call him at 970-521-9571 and he can help you out.)

