

Genesis

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

INTRODUCTION

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

And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was 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 a while...

Genesis 2:10

A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers.

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

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it 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, "**You may surely eat of every tree** of the garden, ¹⁷but 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.

Ask: Do you have rules in your home? [Discuss how many and the consequences for disobedience.]

Ask: Are rules good to have? [Discuss why our parents give us rules. For our protection?]

Adam could eat freely of any other tree in the garden, just not from that one tree. 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.

Ask: Why would God place that one rule on Adam and Eve? (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 crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

Ask: Who is the snake? (Satan!)

Notice that he didn't quote God correctly. Look back at Genesis 2:16.

Ask: What did God actually say? What did Satan say that was wrong? But what does Eve tell Satan?

Genesis 3:2-3

And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

Ask: Did God tell Eve not to touch the fruit?

Satan mixed God's word up, and now Eve adds to what God said...

Genesis 3:4-5

*But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when 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. God told them in Genesis 2:17 that they would **surely** die if they ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Satan tells Eve that God was wrong and that she won't really die. But we know that God never lies.

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. That is the punishment we all deserve for our sin, too.

God's word tells us that God must punish all sin. If you and I do not receive forgiveness for our sins, we will be forever separated from God. Thankfully we have been given a way to be forgiven when we sin against God. [Review today's verse.]

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, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

Eve was overcome with the desire to be like God (see 3:5). 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. Sin is the wrong things we do. It's the "want to" to do things our own way.

Genesis 3:7

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

Up to this point, "... *they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*" (Genesis 2:25) But now that their sin was exposed, 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 the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you 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.

Ask: 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

The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" 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.

Ask: 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

The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

Here God gives us the first and most important prophecy in the whole Bible. This is God's promise to send the Messiah, who would be born of a human mother and be the Savior of the world.

When God said, "*I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring...*" God was talking to Satan and telling him that from now on (since he lied to Eve and tricked her into disobeying God) there would be hostility (or hatred) between his offspring (Satan's demons and all who choose to serve the devil) and Eve's offspring (all of mankind).

When God says, "*you shall bruise his heel,*" He is telling Satan that even though he will try over and over again to defeat Christ, he would only bruise Him. On the other hand, God is saying that Christ will strike a deathblow to Satan's head.

This is the message of the cross. Satan caused Christ Jesus to suffer at the cross. But when Jesus rose from the dead, He proved once and for all that He is almighty God and one day, will throw Satan and all his demons into the lake of fire for all eternity.

This is the Good News that Jesus came and died in our place on the cross and rescued us from Satan's desire to see us all in the lake of fire with him because of our sins. But Jesus came and took the punishment for our sins and offers all who trust in Him eternal life.

This prophesy in Genesis 3:15 is the promise that He will send a Savior to the world. The Lord Jesus is the Savior that God promised to send so long ago right after the first sin.

Genesis 3:21

And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins 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 (its 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 from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that 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.

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. But God didn't want us to stay in our sinfulness; that's why He gave us a way to be forgiven. [Review verse for today.]

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

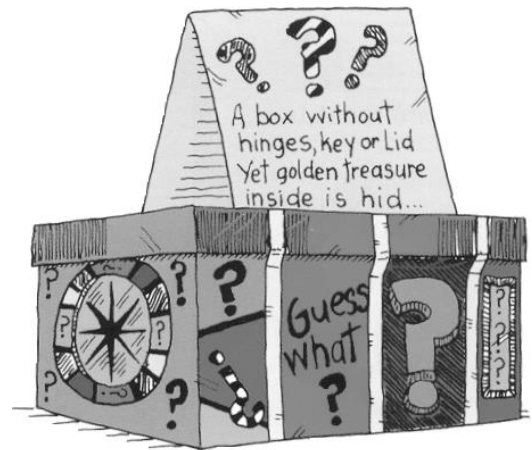
Challenge your friends to discover—by touch only—what lies in your mystery boxes!

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.)

[For more expositional lessons for children, visit <https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]