

# Adam And Eve Are Tempted

Genesis 3: 1-24

## MEMORY VERSE

2 CORINTHIANS 11:3

But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Two bananas and a chalkboard.

Masking tape.

Three different colored 12” pieces of yarn per child in your class.

## ATTENTION GRABBER!

### Do Not Eat the Bananas!

Pick two children to help you by participating in this activity. Whisper to one that no matter what you say, do not eat the banana. Have pre-written on the chalkboard the words: “Do Not Eat the Bananas.” Give each child a banana.

Encourage the children to eat the bananas. Think of everything you can say to get them to take a bite. The one that you did not give the instruction to before class won't, but the other child probably will. After the one has eaten the banana, point out that the chalkboard says not to. Ask the one child who did not eat why they didn't. Explain that in today's story we will be learning about when Eve was tempted by Satan to eat the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil and gave the fruit to Adam who disobeyed God. There is much we can learn from this story about why we are sinners and how that God still loves us and has a plan for us. **God is gracious to sinful man.**

## LESSON TIME!

We have been learning about God's wonderful creation. God's creation was beautiful and perfect. Man was given everything he needed to have a blessed and wonderful life. The only restriction he had was that there was a certain fruit in the midst of the Garden of Eden that he was not to eat of. We are going to be learning more about what happened when Satan came and tricked Eve who led Adam into sin.

This is an important story because it explains a lot of things about why bad things happen in the world today, including why we do bad things. It also shows us why we need a savior, Jesus! **God is gracious to sinful man.**

### GENESIS 3:1-6

Now the serpent was more cunning 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'?"

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.'"

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."

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.

After we are introduced in God's word to His perfect creation and all He has done and provided for man we now see a very dark cloud that has come upon the scene. This is the story of how sin entered the world and destroyed all that God had made. But even in the fall of man, we see clearly the love of God for His creation. We also see man going from a place of constant fellowship with God to separation and despair. He goes from spiritual life to spiritual death. It is sad to read of man's fall, but we also see in this story how that God has provided a way for man to be saved from his sin. **God is gracious to sinful man.**

We are introduced to the serpent, Satan. He is described as subtler than any beast God made. He comes to Eve and the first thing he does is to plant doubt in her mind about God's Word by questioning what He said. And he does this knowing that he is twisting what God really said. Satan said, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

This is important for us to understand because this is how Satan still tricks us today. God had told Adam that He could eat of every tree in the garden, except for one, the tree of knowledge of good and evil. By saying it in this way Satan is planting a seed in Eve's mind that God is keeping something away from her. In other words, he is trying to convince her that there is more out there, but God is keeping her from it. Satan will try to trick us today into thinking that somehow we are missing out because we follow the Lord.

In her response, Eve added that they may not even touch it, lest they die. God never said they couldn't "touch" it. Sometimes we

have a tendency to add on to God's word with dos and don'ts that God never gives us. Again, Satan comes and flat out goes against God's Word. "You will not surely die." We have to remember that Satan is a liar and he will lie to us in order to cause us to sin.

The third trick that Satan plays is that he tells Eve that God is keeping them from this fruit because He know that they will be like Him, knowing good and evil. Again he is making her think that she is missing out on something and that God is afraid that they might know everything he knows. This is also a very dangerous trick. Many false religions cause people to believe that they will "be like God." Instead they lead people far away from God as Satan is doing here. We must be careful of Satan and his tricks.

After shattering Eve's faith in the authority and the goodness of God, the serpent leaves the woman to ponder over his words. As she looks at the tree, she sees its good for food, appealing to fleshly senses; and that it was pleasant to make one wise, appealing to the intelligence. We see that Satan works from the outside to the inside, but God's work always begins in our hearts.

What can we apply to our lives from this? One of Satan's ways to destroy us is again by tricking us. Sin can be very "pleasant to the eyes", appearing to be very good for us, but the end result is death. Eve was near the forbidden tree by herself. Where was Adam? Notice the serpent spoke to Eve when she was alone. There are times when being by ourselves gives the devil an advantage; but being with other Christians gives us strength and safety.

When God has forbidden something to us, let us stay as far away from it as possible (Proverbs 4:14,15). We see that Eve was deceived, but Adam was not, he chose to sin. Both sinned against God (I Timothy 2:14). We see that Satan planted the seeds of doubt and denial of God's Word. Then Eve was deceived and took of the fruit. Adam then took the fruit from Eve. Adam as an act of his will made a choice to sin against God's command.

## 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.

The very first thing that happened was that their eyes were opened. They realized that they had sinned against God and that something very terrible had happened and their relationship with God would never be the same. They also realized that they were naked and needed covering. This is a very interesting picture of sin. Sin causes shame and the first thing we want to do is to cover it up. So the very next thing they did was to make themselves clothing out of fig leaves.

Sometimes people want to try to cover their own sin up instead of coming to the Lord. They will try to do all kinds of things to make themselves look good. They will work very hard to “make themselves acceptable” to God. The only problem with that is that we can never make ourselves acceptable to God. God is the one who makes us righteous with the way that He has chosen. We can only be made right through Jesus and His death on the cross. We will learn more about that later **God is gracious to sinful man.**

## Where Are You?

Play a “mental” game of hide and seek. Divide the children in your class into pairs. Tell them they must each take turns imaginably hiding anywhere in the room. The other child must try to guess where the hiding place is, responding to whether he is getting “warmer” or “colder”. Give everyone a chance to “hide”.

Explain to the class that Adam and Eve tried to hide from God once, but He always sees where we are.

### GENESIS 3:8-13

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."

And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

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."

Here we see that the self-made coverings did not remove from Adam and Eve the guilt of their sin, for when they heard the voice of the Lord God they "hid themselves" from Him. They knew that something happened to their relationship with God, otherwise they wouldn't have hid in fear. God knows everything and certainly He already knew what Adam and Eve had done, but in loving mercy God seeks them out and asks them questions that give them the opportunity to acknowledge their guilt. **God is gracious to sinful man.**

The first question, "Where are you?" indicates that the perfect fellowship between God and man had been broken. We see God

here searching out for man. And Adam and Eve are hiding from their creator. Adam failed to give the reason for hiding from God out of fear. God pressed the question and the man finally acknowledged his guilt, but he attempted to blame it on the woman, and even on God Himself. "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

We see that the relationship between man and woman is quite different before the fall than after sin entered the world. Adam now blames her for his sin. So many times we try to blame others for our sin. The reality is for us that after Adam sinned that all who have followed in the human race are also sinners. Every one of us sin (see Romans 5). So we find ourselves separated from God and we will all have to give an account before Him. So many times we try to blame others for our sin. But God knows. We are responsible for our own sin and must deal with it before God. And how we do that is through Jesus Christ, but more on that later.

Next, Eve, when questioned, does the same thing that Adam does and tries to lay the blame upon the serpent who beguiled her. It can be very hard for us to admit to our sin, but if we don't we are miserable and always blaming someone or something else. We can never get away from our guilt. But I John 1:9 says "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." It is so much better to just admit our sin before God and ask for His forgiveness.

## **Excuses**

Have your children think of excuses they may come up with for doing something wrong. Come up with different scenarios for the children to discuss and come up with excuses. For example, if Billy was told not to play ball near the neighbor's yard and he disobeyed and broke a window, he might say that the yard wasn't big enough, or the wind carried the ball.

Ask the class what Billy should have said. The correct answer for every situation that we disobey in is, "I disobeyed and I'm sorry. I was wrong." Explain how Adam made excuses and blamed someone else when he should have taken responsibility.

### GENESIS 3:14-19

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 between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life.

Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field.

In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return."

The serpent is the only one of the three to receive a direct curse from God. In verse 15 we see the love and grace of God toward

man. **God is gracious to sinful man.** Before He acted in judgment, He shows His mercy; before casting Adam and Eve from the garden, He gives them a promise and a hope. He tells them that One shall come and bruise the head of the enemy, Satan. It was by a woman's choice that sin entered, and by a woman shall come the Savior of the world - Jesus.

We see in these verses the beginnings of the promise and prophecy of Jesus, the Messiah. The woman is where the promised Seed would come from. Jesus was born of a virgin (the seed of a woman). That prophecy was fulfilled 2000 years ago. The promise here is that although Satan will bruise the heel of Christ (a reference to His suffering on the cross), ultimately Jesus would bruise his head (a reference to the final defeat and victory over Satan).

Verses 15-19 also contain the Second Covenant or promise that God gives to man. It conditions the life of fallen man. The conditions are 1) the serpent is cursed; 2) the first promise of the Redeemer; 3) the changed state of the woman; childbirth in pain, sorrow in motherhood, and the headship of the man; 4) the tending of the soil in Eden to the burdensome labor outside of it due to the earth being cursed; 5) the inevitable sorrow of life; 6) the certainty of physical death to Adam and all his descendants.

Even though we see all of these consequences of sin, and even suffer today because of them we still see the mercy and grace of God. God could have destroyed man at that very instant, He didn't. He could have never given them any hope; instead He promised a savior. He doesn't destroy man at the moment of his disobedience, but allows him to live, leaving him the opportunity to be forgiven and to again have a relationship with Him.

But we do need to understand that death did come that day. It wasn't physical death, but a spiritual death. It was the death of a very special spiritual relationship that God had with Adam and

Eve. Their sin separated them from that relationship. They became spiritually dead. We are all in the same condition (Romans 6:23). But in Christ Jesus we can be made spiritually alive and enter into a relationship with God. What wonderful news! **God is gracious to sinful man.**

### GENESIS 3:20-21

And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

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

Adam now gave his wife a name. He calls her Eve, which means, "live." She is indeed the "mother of all living." This is an act of faith on Adam's part. In the face of judgment and death, Adam expresses his belief that life will continue despite their sin. Although life would now be very different for both of them.

In verse 21 we see a perfect picture of salvation for the sinner. **God is gracious to sinful man.** The Lord God clothed Adam and Eve in animal skins, which meant that an animal must have been slain. Hebrews 9:22 tells us that "without shedding of blood there is no remission for sins." A life must have been taken; blood must have been shed. There must be the death of the innocent in the place of the guilty. It is a picture of Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross.

Remember back when Adam and Eve tried to sew fig leaves themselves to cover themselves. That would never work because we can never do anything to provide our own covering for our sin. Only God can provide the covering and forgiveness that we need. So God provided clothing from animal skins for Adam and Eve. Here we see the first sacrifice of an innocent animal to cover the sin of man. It would be throughout the Old Testament a picture of

the cross of Christ that would eventually come and not only cover, but remove the sins of those who believe upon Him.

Adam and Eve did nothing for the covering of their sin; God did it all. He furnished the skins, made them into coats, and clothed Adam and Eve. We must always remember “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8).

## God Does It All

Mark two sections of the classroom with masking tape and explain that one half of the room represents God needing our help, the other represents God not needing our help. Read several phrases and have the children get in the appropriate side of the room.

- 1) We are sinners and God forgives us. He cleanses away our sin.
- 2) God has the world spinning perfectly in space.
- 3) God keeps the seasons coming each year.
- 4) God brings to heaven someone who loves Him.

The answer to all of these questions is that God does it all. You can add to this list, but the important thing is that the children know that God does it all, not us.

## GENESIS 3:22-24

Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"

--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.

Here we see man, who was to have been a gardener, taking care of beautiful trees which God had planted, living in complete dependence upon God's goodness, now expelled from the garden to become a different kind of worker. He must now, instead of tending the soil, till the soil himself and battle the weeds and thorns in order to care for himself and his family.

Anxiety and toil are man's lot for the rest of his life. He is barred from the tree of life, for God placed at the east of the Garden of Eden a detachment of cherubim, armed with flaming swords. How sad it would be for mankind to be in a state of sin and then to eat of the tree of life; to live forever in a sinful state. God wanted Adam to look for life and happiness in the promised Seed. One day, God's saints will "eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God" in the New Jerusalem (Revelation 2:7). **God is gracious to sinful man.**

There are a lot of things we learn from the fall of man in the garden. May we be wise to the tricks of the enemy, Satan! Let's understand that we are sinners, but that God has provided us a way through His son Jesus Christ to be forgiven of our sin and to enter into a relationship with Him. If you haven't asked Jesus to come into your life you can today just by simply asking.

## **A Cord of Three**

Have the children make a bracelet to remind them that through Jesus we are in communion with God. Make three different

colored 12” pieces of yarn for each child. Tie a knot about one inch from the end and braid the pieces together. Explain that one represents God the Father, the second God the Son, and the third God the Holy Spirit. When there is about one inch left after braiding, tie another knot.

Explain to the children that as they wear their bracelets, they can remember that we have free relationship with God because of the price paid by Jesus.

## **PRAYER**

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for God’s abundant grace. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them an opportunity to do so.