



UNIT 2 | SESSION 1

SIN ENTERED THE WORLD

GENESIS 3

KEY PASSAGE:

Romans 3:23

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Ever since Adam and Eve sinned, all people have been sinners. Our sin separates us from God, but God still loves us. God promised a Rescuer would come from Eve's family. God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue people from sin and bring them back to God.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

Does the story of the fall surprise you? How could Adam and Eve—who had everything they needed—rebel against a loving God? Do you think you would have acted differently?

Adam and Eve’s story is our story. Think about the last time you blatantly sinned. What lies were you believing in that moment? Satan wants us to believe the same lie that Eve believed: *Maybe God is holding out on me. Maybe He isn’t good or loving. Maybe I would do a better job than Him.* Do you ever wonder if you know better than God?

Before the fall, Adam and Eve enjoyed a loving, two-way relationship with God. The garden was a true paradise. God filled the garden with good gifts so that they might enjoy them and give Him thanks. This glorifies God. All of that changed when Adam and Eve gave in to the serpent’s temptation.

Adam and Eve desired something more: the wisdom the fruit offered. But when their eyes were opened, they didn’t get what they hoped for. Instead, they were aware of their nakedness. They felt ashamed. Surely the Lord’s heart broke at their act of disobedience and rebellion. Can you think of a time your own sin produced regret and sorrow?

Because of their sin, God cast Adam and Eve out of the garden. Though they did not die right away, sin’s effect was immediate and thorough. Their lives and their children’s lives—and the lives of all of humanity—would be forever affected by their choice. We see this in the world around us. We experience God’s grace, but we are very aware that the world is broken. It was not meant to be this way.

Sin is a big problem that needs a big solution. At just the right time, God sent His Son into the world, born as a baby. Matthew 1:21 says, “You are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

As the kids you teach become increasingly aware of the bad news—that we are all sinners from birth—rejoice with them over the good news: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1 Tim. 1:15).

TERMS TO KNOW

The Fall: The first sin of Adam and Eve that brought judgment upon both nature and mankind. By rejecting God’s authority and choosing to eat the fruit God had forbidden, Adam threw God’s creation into chaos.

WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “ Can you think of a time you did something and wished you could take it back? Maybe you threw a ball in the house and broke a picture frame, or you said something mean and really hurt someone. [Allow kids to respond.] Sometimes an action that takes only a second can have long-lasting consequences. ”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Invite kids to complete “Out of Eden” on the activity page.

SAY “ This maze shows Adam and Eve going out of the wonderful garden that God created for them. Do you know why they had to leave? We will find out in today’s Bible story. ”

2 SESSION STARTER

OPTION 1: BELIEVE IT OR NOT



Read the following story aloud. Then ask questions about what you read. Kids should stand if they believe the answer is yes or sit if they believe it is no.

My name is Sam, and I have seven sisters. Their names are Sarah, Sally, Shiloh, Stella, Sophia, Sadie, and Savannah. Sarah is the oldest, and she knows how to ride a horse. Stella and Sophia are twins. Shiloh and I love soccer, and Sally likes to swim. Savannah is the youngest. She’s six. We have six pets: a snake, a salamander, a seahorse, a sheep, a squirrel, and a cat.

Suggested questions: Did I really say I have seven sisters? Did I really say Sarah can ride a donkey? Did I really say Shiloh and I are twins? Did I really say Sally likes to swim? Did I really say Savannah is seven? Did I really say we have a cat?

SAY “ Did you remember what I said, or did you start to doubt what you had heard? In today’s Bible story, a serpent caused Eve to doubt God’s words. Let’s find out what happened after that. ”

OPTION 2: PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Before the session, list various problems on separate index cards. Use these examples or generate your own ideas: You get locked out of the house, You forgot to do your homework, Your dog needs to go outside but it’s snowing, You spilled a drink on the carpet, Your sister took one of your shirts.

Mix up the cards. Choose a volunteer to take a card. The volunteer will stand in front of the group and describe possible solutions to the problem. She should not state the problem in any fashion. The rest of the kids will try to guess what the problem is. Repeat with different problems as time allows.

SAY “ Sometimes solving a small problem is really simple. If you’ve ever had a big problem, you know solving it is not always easy. In today’s Bible story, we will hear how the big problem of sin came into the world. ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

SAY “ Today and over the next few weeks, we are going to be thinking about a big picture question. The big picture question is a question that helps us remember something that is true about God or ourselves. It reminds us that beyond the smaller details of a Bible story, God is working out a greater plan.

Our big picture question is, **What does it mean to sin?** What do you think? **What does it mean to sin?** [Allow kids to respond.] Those are some good ideas. Here is the answer to our big picture question: **To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands.** We’ll talk more about that after we hear today’s Bible story. ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Genesis 3. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Sin Entered the World.” Use the bolded text to retell or review the story.

SIN ENTERED THE WORLD

“**God gave the first two people a beautiful garden to call home. He gave them everything they needed, and He gave them a command. God said, “You may eat from any of the trees in the garden, except for one.”** The garden had a tree in it called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. **God warned the man, “If you eat from that tree, you will die.”**”

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the animals. **One day, the serpent went to the woman. “Did God really say, ‘You can’t eat from any tree in the garden?’” he asked.**

The woman answered, “We can eat the fruit from the trees in the garden, but God told us not to eat from the tree in the middle of the garden. He said if we eat the fruit or touch it, we will die.”

“**No! You will not die,” the serpent lied. “You will be like God, knowing good and evil.”** The woman looked at the fruit. It did look delicious, and she wanted to be wise. **So she took some of the fruit and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.** Then their eyes were opened, and they knew they were naked. So they sewed together fig leaves and made clothes for themselves. **That evening, the man and his wife heard God walking in the garden. They hid among the trees. God called out to the man, “Where are you?”**”

The man said, “I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.”

“Who told you that you were naked?” **God asked. “Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”**

The man blamed his wife. “She gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it,” he said. The woman blamed the serpent. “He tricked me,” she said.

God said bad things would happen. Life would be hard and painful, all because of sin. But God promised that one of the woman’s descendants would destroy the serpent. God made those first people—Adam and Eve—clothes out of animal skins and sent them out of the garden. God put angels and a sword of fire at the entrance of the garden to guard the way to the tree of life.

Christ Connection: Ever since Adam and Eve sinned, all people have been sinners. Our sin separates us from God, but God still loves us. God promised a Rescuer would come from Eve’s family. God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue people from sin and bring them back to God. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Vary your voice: Use a different voice or tone for each speaker in the story.

Call for active listening: Invite kids to give a thumbs-down when they hear something sad or bad, and give a thumbs-up when they hear something happy or good.

Small Group/Discussion Questions

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ How do you think Adam and Eve felt before they sinned? What was their relationship with God like? [Allow kids to respond.] They had a right relationship with God. He gave them everything they needed. They were completely known and loved.

Then one day, this serpent came along. The serpent wasn't just a tricky snake. Who was he? The serpent was actually Satan, an enemy of God. Satan—also known as the devil—is against everything that God is for. Satan came along and led Adam and Eve to doubt God. What question did Satan ask Eve? Look at Genesis 3:1. [Choose a volunteer to read aloud Gen. 3:1.] Satan lied and told Eve that she would not die if she disobeyed God.

Eve believed the lie, and she ate the fruit. Adam ate it too. Sin entered the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command. God still loved Adam and Eve, but He did not let them stay in the garden.

After Adam and Eve sinned, how do you think they felt? [Allow kids to respond.] They felt ashamed and tried to hide from God. What did Adam and Eve think God would do? What did God do? Look at Genesis 3:21,23. [Choose a volunteer to read aloud Gen. 3:21,23.]

Before Adam and Eve left the garden, God explained the consequences of their sin. Adam, Eve, and the serpent all faced consequences. What were some of the consequences? Look at Genesis 3:14-19. [Allow kids to scan the passage and share some of the consequences.] God judged Adam and Eve. He said their lives would be marked by pain and suffering. Their sin separated them from God. God sent them out of the garden, but God also showed them grace. He clothed them, and they did not die right away.

Look at Genesis 3:15. God told the serpent that someone would come from Eve's family to destroy the serpent. One day, Satan and his evil work would be stopped for good. What a wonderful promise. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ Ever since Adam and Eve sinned, all people have been born as sinners. Sin separates us from God, but God still loves us. God promised a Rescuer would come from Eve's family. God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue people from sin and bring them back to God. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

2 GROUP DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| **SAY** “ Why did the snake tempt Eve? ”

Remind kids that Satan was behind the temptation. Satan is against God and everything that He is for. The snake tempted Eve to doubt God's goodness. Emphasize that when Satan tempts us to sin, he may try to get us to doubt God's goodness too. Kids must be aware of Satan and his tactics in order to resist them.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Jas. 4:7.)

| **SAY** “ Can we hide from God? Why do you think people might try to hide from God? ”

Point out that after Adam and Eve sinned, they heard God in the garden and hid among the trees. God asked, “Where are you?” but that doesn’t mean that God could not see them. God gave Adam an opportunity to confess his sin. Ask if a parent has ever said, “Who did this?” when finding a mess in the house. The parent may know the answer but gives a kid the opportunity to tell the truth. Discuss why people might try to hide from God (fear, shame, and so on). Emphasize that we cannot hide from God.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 4:13.)

| **SAY** “ Does sin always have consequences? Explain. ”

Lead kids to recognize that although we may not see the consequences immediately, sin always has consequences. Point out that the biggest consequence of sin is that it separates us from God.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Isa. 59:2.)