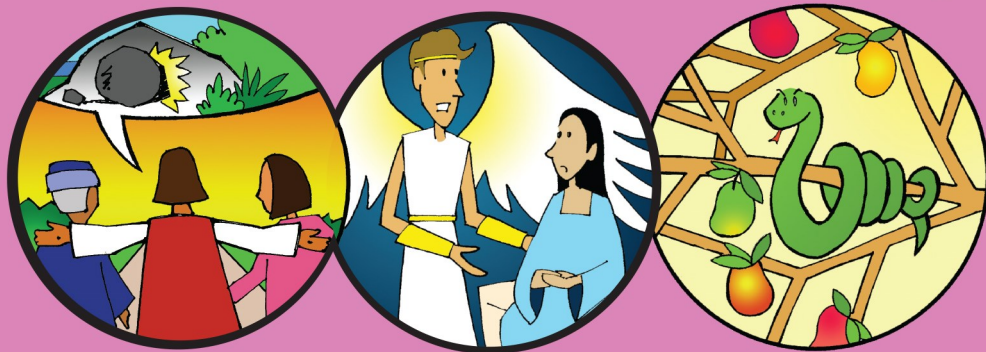


KIDS MINI LESSONS

NARRATIVE LECTIONARY

LIVING THE WORD

Narrative Lectionary



Teacher's Guide

CONTRIBUTORS

Publisher

Gregory Rawn

Editors

Kari Osmek

Gregory Rawn

Cynthia Fairman Paulson

Elaine Seekon

Writers

Jennifer Hatleli

Victoria Hoppes

Nance Keyes

Beth Priest

Elaine Seekon

Jenia Strom

Graphic Designers

Nicholas McDougal

Benjamin Borter

Amanda Wolfe

Layout

Nance Keyes

Dawn Saxton

Illustrators

Amanda Wolfe

Rev. Tom Pairan

COPYRIGHTS

Living the Word: Kids Mini Lessons (Narrative Lectionary, Year 3)

Text and illustrations copyright © 2015-2024 by Spirit & Truth Publishing

All rights reserved. No part of this curriculum may be used or reproduced in any other manner whatsoever without written permission. For information, contact Spirit & Truth Publishing at www.SpiritAndTruthPublishing.com.

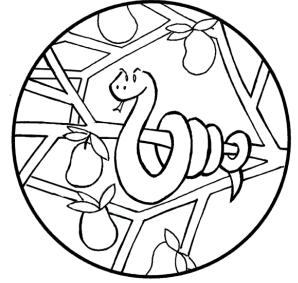
Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture is quoted from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



Sample Lesson

CREATION AND FALL

Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17; 3:1-8



Key Verse:

The man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.
Genesis 3:8

The Point:

God loves us, even when we do the wrong thing.

Story Summary:

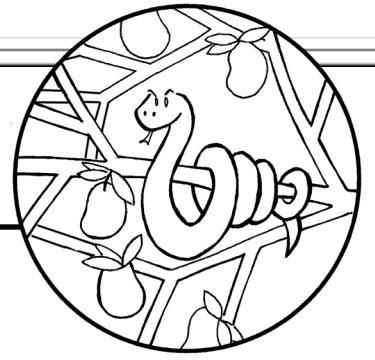
In today's passage, God formed the first humans to walk with God in the Garden of Eden. With the exception of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they were tasked with the care and enjoyment of the garden. The serpent encouraged Eve to question God's reasons for saying not to eat the fruit of the tree. He led Eve to doubt God's love for humankind. She started to think God was keeping the best from them rather than giving them the best of the creation and the best of a relationship with God. Eve and Adam both ate of the forbidden fruit. God gave them everything, including a perfect relationship with God, but they allowed the words of the serpent

and their subsequent actions to interfere with that relationship. After they disobeyed and ate the fruit, they realized their nakedness and were embarrassed. Disobedience (sin) came between humankind and God.

The Point

God loves us, even when we do the wrong thing. Just as there were consequences for Eve and Adam's wandering, we too experience the consequences for our actions. Praise God for the mercy shown not only to Eve and Adam but to us as well. God will always take care of us.

LESSON PLAN



LEARNING THE STORY (15 MINUTES)

THE FIRST PROMISE

Sound effects emphasize the stages in the story.

You will need:

- † Bibles

During class:

1. Help the students find Genesis 2 in the Bibles even if some cannot read or follow along. Read or ask a volunteer to read Genesis 2:4-7.
2. Read or ask a volunteer to read Genesis 2:15-17.
3. **Why did God put the man in the garden?** *[To take care of it.]*
4. **God made a beautiful garden. Then God put the man in the garden to take care of it. Who do you let touch or take care of your favorite toys or important belongings?** *[They may list specific names.]* **Why do you let them do this?** Answers may vary. **We give permission to the people who we trust to take good care of our special belongings.**
5. **God gave the whole garden to Adam, to live in and take care of. What one rule did God give to Adam?** *[Do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.]* **What did God expect and trust Adam to do with that rule?** *[Obey, follow the rule, not eat the fruit.]*
6. **During the next part of the story, I am going to need some helpers to make sound effects.** Divide the class into groups. Tell one group to tap their finger tips or nails on the table when they hear someone or something being sneaky or trying to stir up trouble. Let them practice. Another group will make a high pitched warning “beep-beep-beep” when someone is thinking about doing something wrong. Let them practice. Another group will shout a lingering “Noooo!” when someone makes a bad decision or action. Let them practice. Another group will cover their faces and groan when someone feels ashamed for a specific action. Let them practice.

7. Read Genesis 3:1. (Rat-a-tat-tat fingers tap on table.)
8. Read Genesis 3:2-3.
9. Read Genesis 3:4-5. (Rat-a-tat-tat fingers tap on table.)
10. Read Genesis 3:6, stopping after “make one wise.” (Beep-beep-beep.)
11. Finish reading Genesis 3:6. (Nooooo!)
12. Read Genesis 3:7. (Groans.)
13. Read Genesis 3:8. (Groans.)
14. **What was tricky about the serpent’s words?** [*He was trying to get the woman to think that God was the one tricking her; he wanted her to second guess or question the rules; he did not come right out and say to disobey, but he slowly led her to think it was okay to do the wrong thing.*]
15. Reread Genesis 3:4-5. (Rat-a-tat-tat fingers tap on table.)
16. **What did the serpent try to get Eve to believe about God’s rule?** [*That God was not telling the truth.*]
17. Reread Genesis 3:6, stopping after “make one wise.” (Beep, beep, beep.)
18. **How could you tell that the woman was starting to think about doing the wrong thing?** [*She started looking at the fruit, she started thinking the fruit was good, she started thinking that maybe the fruit could make her wise.*]
19. **When the woman was doing all that thinking about how good the fruit might be, what was she forgetting?** [*God’s rule about the fruit.*]
20. **How could she have kept herself from wondering so much about the fruit that she wanted to try it?** [*Think more about God’s rule, look the other way, think about all the things God gave and allowed her to have rather than what she was not allowed to have.*]
21. Reread the rest of Genesis 3:6. (Nooooo!)
22. **How do you think God felt when both the woman and the man ate the fruit that God told them not to eat?** [*Sad, mad, disappointed, hurt.*]
23. Reread Genesis 3:7-8. (Groans.)
24. **How did the woman and the man feel after they disobeyed and ate the fruit?** [*Ashamed, bad, afraid.*]
25. **God promised to take care of Adam and Eve. They broke their promise to obey. God was not pleased with them, and there were consequences for their disobedience, but God still kept the promise to take care of them. Our God is a promise keeper!**

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

CHOICES (10 MINUTES)

Identify good and bad choices.

You will need:

- † Bibles
- † Activity Sheet #3-1.A

During class:

1. This is a game during which you will read prompts from a script (Activity Sheet #3-1.A). Try to use different voices as you read the prompts. **When you hear me say things that are tempting you to make bad choices, hiss like a snake. When you hear me say things that are leading you to make good choices, hold up your Bible.**
2. Challenge the students with the fun opportunity to take turns coming up with scenarios for their classmates to respond with a hiss or a Bible.
3. After the activity say, **when you are tempted to make a wrong choice, picture yourself holding up the Bible, choose to turn around and listen to the thoughts and people that lead you to make good choices.**

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

FRUIT ART (15 MINUTES)

Create and eat Bible story fruit art.

Before serving any food, always check with participants or caregivers for students who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

You will need:

- † Paper plates
- † Napkins
- † Toothpicks
- † Fruit
- † Paring knife
- † Zippered sandwich bags

Before class:

1. Optional: Review ideas for “fruit art” so you can have a point of reference for this activity by performing an Internet search for “easy fruit art for kids.”
2. Slice various kinds of fruit and divide them equally into each sandwich bag.

During class:

1. **Fruit is good for us. God made it to nourish us. In today’s story, it was not the fruit in the garden that was bad; it was disobedience to God that was bad.**
2. **Fruit is also pretty. God was creative when God made some nice-looking fruit for us to eat.**
3. Distribute paper plates and bags of cut-up fruit.
4. Ask the students to be creative and use the slices of fruit to illustrate something from today’s Bible story. The students will make art out of fruit.
5. Ask the students to share the story that goes with their plates.
6. After everyone has shared, the fruit artists can eat their masterpieces.

SENDING THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

Before ending class, make a point to come together to pray. Use the following or say your own prayer. Never force a student to hold hands or similar if they do not want to. Consider alternatives if needed.

As a part of the fellowship of believers, we will hold hands and show that we all agree when we pray. Each time we pray something different, we will all raise our hands. Lower them before the next part of the prayer. I will pray a line first and then you will repeat it. Keep holding hands the whole time!

Thank you God for fruit. (Joined hands raise.)

(Joined hand are at sides.)

Thank you for forgiveness. (Joined hands raise.)

(Joined hand are at sides.)

Thank you for your love. (Joined hands raise.)

(Joined hand are at sides.)

Help us make good choices. (Joined hands raise.)

(Joined hand are at sides.)

Amen.

CHOICES

Identify good and bad choices.

1. You are told to put your toys away, but you think it would be easier and faster to tuck them under the bed. *[Hiss.]*
2. Another child pulls your hair, but you remember that you should be kind to them. *[Hold up Bible.]*
3. You hear other children being rude to their parents, but you know that you should respect your parent's words. *[Hold up Bible.]*
4. You are told to go to bed, but you would rather stall for a few more minutes. *[Hiss.]*
5. You promised to share a toy with a friend, and you know that you should keep your promise, even if you do not want to. *[Hold up Bible.]*
6. You are not supposed to use the computer without permission, and even though you really want to play a game, you know you should wait until your parent says it is okay. *[Hold up Bible.]*
7. You know that if you put your feet across the seat on the bus, you can have the seat to yourself. *[Hiss.]*
8. You want to be a part of a group, even if that means you will tease someone. *[Hiss.]*
9. You are told to put your toys away, you know you should listen to your parent. *[Hold up Bible.]*
10. Another child pushes you, and you want to push them back. *[Hiss.]*
11. You hear other children being rude to their parents, and you do that, too. *[Hiss.]*
12. You are told to go to bed, and even though you do not want to go to bed yet, you should obey. *[Hold up Bible.]*
13. You know that if you make room for someone on your seat on the bus, even though you will have less space, it will be a nice thing to do. *[Hold up Bible.]*
14. You promised to share a toy with a friend, but it would be more fun to keep it to yourself. *[Hiss.]*
15. You are not supposed to get on the computer without permission, but you do it anyway. *[Hiss.]*