THE FALL AND A PROMISE



WHEN I MAKE A WRONG CHOICE, GOD STILL LOVES ME AND HAS A PLAN TO SAVE.

MEMORY VERSE

"For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You" (Psalm 86:5).

WORD OF THE WEEK—SORROW:

Sadness felt after a big loss. As you read your lesson, circle the word "sorrow." Think about who experienced sorrow and why. When have you felt sorrow?

This week's lesson is based on Genesis 3; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 52-70; *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, pp. 229-236; and *The Story of Redemption*, pp. 24-51.
Extra Reading: *The Bible Story*, vol. 1, pp. 61-77.

SUNDAY

Two Trees

God created Eden to be a beautiful forever home for Adam and Eve. From delicate flower to towering tree, He placed everything together in perfect order and beauty.

Two majestic trees stood in the middle of the garden. Each had a special purpose.

The first great tree was called the tree of life. The fruit of this tree would give life forever to Adam and Eve, and all their family to come.

The other great tree was also important, but God asked Adam and Eve not to eat from this tree—ever! What was this tree called? *Read Genesis 2:17.*

God could have left this tree out of His perfect garden, but everything about God is true and fair. This tree was like a signpost telling them that Lucifer, an angel in heaven, had rebelled, becoming Satan, which means "enemy." His rebellion began a war between God and him, good and evil. God asked them never to eat the fruit of this tree. He never wanted them to know what evil was: to experience hurt, pain, and death. But He let them choose. God wanted them to be able to choose to love Him, instead of being forced. Choosing not to eat from the tree would show that they had chosen God's side in the war between good and evil.

God told them they would die if they ate from this tree. He sent His loving angels to warn them that Satan would try to tempt them to do the wrong thing, to separate them from God. Trusting God, staying away from this tree, and staying together would keep them from sinning.

Pray: Thank God that you can choose to love Him, and ask Him to always help you do so.

Think . . . Then Talk About It

- *What places can you choose to play?*
- *Where have you been told not to play because it isn't safe?*



PRAY: Thank God for working in your heart and helping when you are tempted to make a wrong choice.

☐ **MONDAY**

The Fall of Adam and Eve

Life for Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden must have been one great, joyous adventure! That is, until they made a sad mistake. It seemed such a little thing at first, but it turned out to be very big.

It all started when Eve found herself at the forbidden tree, face-to-face with a dazzlingly beautiful, striking, winged serpent.

Suddenly the serpent began talking in the sweetest voice! Satan was speaking through it, so a string of smooth lies poured from its mouth. What were the serpent's lies? **Read Genesis 3:4, 5.**

The lies were confusing, but they sounded so good. As the serpent slithered closer and held out the fruit, she took it and crunched her first bite. It was juicy and sweet, and nothing bad happened, so she quickly picked some for Adam.

Adam's face fell as Eve stepped toward him holding the fruit. He took a bite.

Satan had tempted Adam and Eve by making things look, sound, and feel good when they weren't good at all.

FAST FACT: Adults make an average of 35,000 choices each day.* That's a lot of choices God can help us with!

Think . . . Then Talk About It

- *Think of a time you've been tempted to make a bad choice. What thoughts were going on inside your head? How did Satan make it sound OK?*
- *Read Jude 24 together and talk about what it means.*

DO: Sing your memory verse to your family every day this week.

God lovingly works in our hearts to help us see the truth and make the right choices. On the other hand, Satan spins lies to make wrong look right and right look wrong.

* https://go.roberts.edu

TUESDAY

Adam, Eve, and the Fig Leaves

The fruit didn't taste good for long. Tears stung their eyes as Adam and Eve sat with shoulders drooped. A deep sadness filled their hearts, along with guilt and shame.

Blinking back tears, they realized God's soft covering of light had disappeared from around their bodies. They felt lonely, chilled, and naked! Fumbling with fig leaves, they tried hard to make themselves some clothes. Then what did Adam and Eve hear, and what did they do? **Read Genesis 3:8.**

Guilt, fear, and shame drove them to run and hide from God. Their choice to disobey Him was sin, and sin had changed them inside. They didn't know how much God's heart ached with sorrow and love for them.

God knew how Adam and Eve felt, and He knew where they were. Wanting them to choose to see Him, He gently called to Adam, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9).

Adam's head popped up, and he wondered if his ears had heard right. Did God still want to be with them? In response to the kindness in God's voice, they quit hiding in the shadows. With heads hung low, they came out to see their God. He looked at them with eyes of both love and sorrow and then began to speak.

God asked what had happened, and the blaming began. Adam blamed Eve. Eve blamed the serpent. But the serpent had no one to blame. They had all hurt God by not trusting Him. Adam and Eve had disobeyed, and terrible consequences would follow. But God hadn't left them! And His presence calmed their hearts.

Think . . . Then Talk About It

God makes a beautiful promise in Deuteronomy 31:6, ICB: "He will not leave you or forget you."

- *How might Adam and Eve have felt if they could have read this promise?*
- *How do you feel, knowing that God will never leave you, even when you make a bad choice?*
- *Why is it good to know that God is always willing to forgive?*

Pray: Hold hands and thank God for the promise that He will always love us, no matter what.

Do: Create a promise card with the verse above. Decorate your card and place it where you can see it all week.

Parent Faith Talk: Share a time you know God never left you.



PRAY: Tell God how grateful you are that He will never leave you. Our loving God knows that sorrow and bad consequences always follow disobedience. But He will always be there to love us and help us obey.

DO: Cut two strips of paper. Write God on one, and your name on the other. Glue the ends of each strip together in two interlinked circles. What does this remind you of?

FOR YOU, PARENTS: As you parent your children, be encouraged by God's example to follow through with consequences kindly.

☐ **WEDNESDAY**

Consequences of Sin

With a sad but gentle voice God told Adam and Eve that life would change. God had wanted to keep them from experiencing pain and death, but they had chosen to disobey Him and eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Now Adam would have to work hard to grow food. Eve would feel pain when she had children.

Then God told them they would have to leave their beautiful garden home. Once again, their hearts filled with sorrow . . . leave their home?

Yes, for God always means what He says. So with one long last look at all the beauty God had wanted them to enjoy forever, they left Eden. Never to return.

Why did God tell them they would have to leave the Garden of Eden? **Read Genesis 3:22, 23.**

God had given them the tree of life so they would live forever. But living forever with sin would be horrible! God had to keep His word. He put angels with flaming swords at the gates to the garden to guard the tree of life. Adam and Eve now knew good and evil, and it was no fun at all. The one good thing in the middle of all the sorrow was that God would never leave them, just as He won't ever leave us. They couldn't see Him face-to-face anymore, but He would always be there. For He says in His Word, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20).

THINK . . . THEN TALK ABOUT IT

- *When have you had to leave something or someone you love? How did you feel?*
- *What would you like to say to God, knowing that He will never leave you?*





☐ THURSDAY

God's Love and a Promise

Before Adam and Eve left Eden, the Bible says that "God made tunics of skin, and clothed them" (Genesis 3:21). This was the first time they had ever seen an animal friend die. It must have made them so very sad!

In the middle of all the sorrow, God shared a beautiful promise of hope and rescue with Adam and Eve. God would not let sin win! He says in Genesis 3:15 that someone will come to crush Satan and destroy all evil forever. God is talking to Satan, and He says that someone will come to crush Satan. This person, "He" in the verse, will be wounded but will destroy all evil forever.

God had a rescue plan—He would send someone to save them! Feeling miserable and fearing their own death, Adam and Eve needed to hear His promise. They needed to know that though they'd made their big mistake, God had a special way to fix it.

They couldn't see what was happening in heaven. But moved by great love for them, Jesus had said to His Father, "Let the punishment fall on Me. I will stand in man's place. He shall have another chance" (Ellen G. White, *The Faith I Live By*, p. 75).

Wow! It would be hard for God the Father to let His Son come to earth to stand in place of all people and die for their sins. But He knew Jesus was the very best His loving heart could give. And so this became the plan and the promise.

God used different words to share it with Adam and Eve, but they understood, and kept it in their hearts. They would always feel sad when they thought about what they had done, but God's loving promise filled them with hope and a future. When Adam and Eve sinned, they passed the consequences of their sin on to everyone, so we all need God's plan. He knows how much hope this amazing promise will give to His children all over the world, so the Bible records it in a special way. Read how it is written in **John 3:16.**

PRAY: Thank God for the promise and ask Him to help you always believe and share it.

DO: To make the promise in John 3:16 special for you, put your name in the spaces below. "For God so loved _____ that He gave His only begotten Son, that _____ believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

PARENT FAITH TALK: Share a favorite promise and how it has encouraged you.

Think . . . Then Talk About It

- *If Jesus were here right now, what would you say to Him?*
- *With whom could you share God's special promise?*



☐ FRIDAY

Living With the Promise

After Adam and Eve's sad exit from the Garden of Eden, life fell into a steady rhythm for them. Their days became busy with work, just as God had said they would. Over time they noticed changes creeping into their world. Flowers faded, weeds popped up in the pumpkin patch, and leaves fluttered down and crunched under their feet.

Good *and* evil now lived side by side in all of God's creation, not just in Adam and Eve's hearts. Evil had stretched out its deadly fingers, but breathtaking beauty could always be seen. Now Adam and Eve could *choose* what to focus on: decay or beauty, good or evil.

Despite the way sin had changed their world, Adam and Eve held tight to hope in their hearts. Hope that they would one day see God's Son come to earth to fulfill the promise. They didn't know when it would happen, or how. But they truly believed it would, for God had promised. And He always keeps His promises. How can we be sure God keeps His promises? **Read Romans 4:21.**

There are many promises in God's Word. We can hold them in our hearts, just as Adam and Eve did. Your memory verse is one of these; why not recite it now. It tells us that because God's Son came and died for us, we can be forgiven and turn away from our sins to a new life of following Him.

Think . . . Then Talk About It

• *Where do you see good and evil side by side in your world?*

Friday Night

Share and Praise

If you can, sit under a tree together as the sun sets and sing some praise songs to God. You might like to learn hymn no. 92, "This Is My Father's World," in *The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*. Then talk about the two trees in the Garden of Eden. If indoors, look up some interesting facts about trees to share. The tree of life will be in heaven! Imagine meeting your family and friends there!

Family Journal

If you could tell Adam and Eve how God's promise was fulfilled, what would you tell them?

• Finish each sentence. When I think about the lesson story, I feel . . . I hope . . . I am glad . . . I am sorry . . .

Do

Create a card with a promise that you have discovered in this lesson, and give it to someone to encourage them.

Pray

As a family, pray a seesaw prayer. Pause and think about things in this week's lesson story that you are thankful for, and things you would like to ask God for. Pray backward and forward: thanks—request, thanks—request.



SABBATH SPECIAL

Nature Spot

There are more than 73,000 different types of trees in the world! Do you know that trees can help us understand God's promises?

There are two main types of trees: deciduous and evergreen. In countries where it gets cold in winter, deciduous trees lose all their leaves during the cold part of the year. If a deciduous tree does not lose its leaves, then it will freeze in winter. Sap is what feeds the leaves. During the fall (autumn) the sap runs down to the roots, where it is stored for the winter. If the sap stayed up in the trunk and branches, then the tree would freeze. If you live in a country where it snows, your water bottle would freeze if you left it outside on an icy-cold winter day. Then during the spring the sap runs back up the tree trunk and through the branches to feed the buds that will turn into green leaves again!

Do you cry when the trees lose their leaves? No, of course not, because you know that there will be new green leaves again. You know this because you have seen it happen before. It is a promise of new life.

But did you know that Adam and Eve cried when they saw the first dead leaf fall to the ground? It broke their hearts to see the effect of their choice not to trust God. They knew that God had promised to make it right by sending His Son to save the world, but the leafless trees clearly brought to mind the sad fact that death would now come to every living thing.

We too have to see many sad things because of sin. But we live with the same promise—Jesus came once to die for our sins, and He will come again to take us home to heaven! The next time you see trees lose their leaves, you may be reminded about how terrible sin is. But think too about how wonderful it is to live with the promise that Jesus is coming again to make a world with no death, pain, or sin. What a wonderful place that will be!

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