

FALL

“The first sin: What is sin?”

Series Objective: Students will learn:

- What is Sin?
- Cain and Abel vs. Seth
- Noah and the situation of the world
- Humans relied on self

Series Theme Verse: “My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge.” Psalm 62:7 (NIV)

Lesson Objective: Students will understand what sin is by examining the story of the first sin.

Lesson Passage: Genesis 3:1-24

Materials Needed: Bibles, marshmallows, bow and arrow, black construction paper, chalk, white crayons, tape, theme verse on a poster

Lesson Plan:

The Story:

Talking Points:

- What was craftier than any of the wild animals God made? (serpent)
- What did the serpent ask the woman? (Did God really say you couldn't eat from any tree in the garden?)
- How did Eve respond? (We can eat from any tree, but we can't eat from the tree in the middle of the garden; we can't even touch it, or we'll die.)
- Was she telling the truth? (Yes, God told them not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, but he didn't tell them they couldn't touch it. Refer back to Gen 2:17)
- How does the serpent twist her answer? (You won't die; Your eyes will be opened and you'll be like God.)
- Why do you think Eve ate the fruit? (It looked delicious, tempted to be like God, ...)
- Was the fruit an apple? (We don't know what kind of fruit it was.)
- Did Adam eat the fruit? (yes)
- What did Adam and Eve do when they heard God walking in the garden? (hid)
- Why do you think they hid? (Felt guilty, scared, didn't want God to know what they did...)

- What do you think it was like in the garden before they ate the fruit? (Adam and Eve were taking care of the garden and animals, taking walks with God and talking with each other...)
- How would you describe the action of eating the fruit? (disobedience to God, sin)
- What is sin? (The Bible describes sin as breaking God's law (1 John 3:4). Disobedience. Merriam Webster defines sin this way - to do something that is considered wrong according to religious or moral law. The original translation means "to miss the mark" of God's holy standard of righteousness.)
- How did Adam respond when God asked him about what he did? (The woman you put here with me gave it to me and I ate it.)
- How did Eve respond when God asked her about what she did? (The serpent deceived me and I ate.)
- Were either one of them straight forward with God? (No)
- Why do you think they both responded this way? (Didn't want to own their sin. They tried to blame someone else for their actions. Adam blamed Eve. Eve blamed the serpent.)
- What was the serpent's punishment? (vs14-15 cursed, crawl on its belly, eat dust, hatred between it and women)
- What were Eve's consequences for her disobedience? (vs 16 pain in childbirth, husband will rule over you)
- What were Adam's consequences for his disobedience? (17-19 & 23 ground he works is cursed, working the land will be harder, thorns, kicked out of the garden)
- Why were Adam and Eve kicked out of the garden? (So they couldn't eat from the tree of life and live forever, now they would eventually die – another consequence of their sin)
- How do you think the relationship between Adam & Eve and God has changed now? (It's broken. It is not as intimate or close as it was before. Sin has caused a separation.)
- Does God still care about Adam and Eve? How do we know? (Yes, he provides clothes for them & the bible doesn't end here, the story continues)

The Story Retold:

- Give each student a piece of black construction paper and have them draw a target on it using the chalk.
- Tape the targets up on the wall.
- Let each student take a turn shooting a marshmallow from the bow and arrow at their own target. (If time, they can try more than once.)
- How many hit the bullseye?
- Remind the students that the center of the target (the bullseye) is God's perfect, holy standard of righteousness for our lives. Any time that we miss that perfect standard by telling a lie, making fun of someone behind their

back, smarting off to our parents, etc. then we are missing the mark – we are sinning.

- Take the targets down and using chalk or white crayons have them write at the top – sin = when I miss the mark of God’s holy standard in my life
- Then draw a line from the bullseye and write – bullseye – God’s holy standard of righteousness for my life
- When Adam and Eve chose to eat the fruit that God told them not to eat, they sinned against God and broke the relationship they had with God.
- Once we miss the mark, is God done with us? (No, he offers forgiveness if we ask and a chance to restore our relationship with him. God made new clothes for Adam and Eve as a step to restoring the relationship. His mercies are new every morning. Lamentations 3:22-23)
- When we sin, there are consequences, but we can never sin so bad that God will not love us or seek to restore relationship with us. We have another chance to hit the mark.

The Story and Me:

- Have Series Theme Verse printed on a poster.
- Read the verse together several times.
- Divide the class into groups: boys vs girls, everyone wearing blue, etc. to say the verse together until they have it memorized.
- Write it on a note card to keep it in the same place as our last verse – somewhere you will see it every day.
- What does the word “refuge” mean? (shelter or protection from danger or trouble)
- How can God be your refuge this week?
- This week: Seek to hit the mark. Strive for God’s holy standard in your life.