



THE FALL

Young Preschool • #OT3 • June 23, 2024

Concept

God wants to forgive everyone.

Goal

Children will learn that Adam and Eve chose to disobey God and that everyone chooses to sin. They will learn that the consequence for sin is separation from God, but they can become God's friends by asking for His forgiveness.

Passage

Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1-24

Key Verse: "Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" Genesis 3:13 (NCV)

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>6' parachute</i> <p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Harold the Hippo or Monty the Monkey hand puppet</i> <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Praise Bible, Thomas <p>Lesson & Learning Activity #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Laminated, magnet-backed pictures of:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Adam with lamb</i> ◦ <i>Eve standing</i> ◦ <i>Rabbit</i> ◦ <i>Adam & Eve's garden</i> ◦ <i>Adam w/basket</i> ◦ <i>Eve planting flowers</i> ◦ <i>Snake</i> ◦ <i>Tree of the knowledge of good and evil</i> ◦ <i>Jesus</i> 	<p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picture of tree and Jesus, 1/child • Fruit label stickers, several/child • Snake label stickers, 1/child • Crayons • Markers

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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"Two Significant Trees. In the middle of God's Kingdom (the Garden of Eden), two significant trees were placed. There was the 'tree of the knowledge of good and evil' (Genesis 2:17). God told Adam that the day he ate of it, he would die. The other significant tree was the Tree of Life. It depicted Eternal Life and Jesus Christ is spiritually the eternal Tree of Life (see Revelation 22:2).

Adam had the choice of whether or not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Because he chose to disobey God, he made it impossible to eat of the Tree of Life. Had he eaten of the Tree of Life, he would have contained the highest life, divine Eternal Life, which is the Life of Christ.

God's Kingdom Invaded. Satan, the enemy of God, is described in the Bible as 'roaming to and fro on earth' (see Job 1:7). He is pictured as shrewd and as one who prowls around like a lion seeking someone to devour (see 1 Peter 5:8). His basic strategy is revealed as accusing God to man (see Job 1:11 and Genesis 3:5) and accusing man to God (see Revelation 12:10). He is determined to thwart God's plan and by causing additional rebellion against God, to build up his own kingdom.

In the Garden of Eden, Satan's attack against God was to cast doubt on His Word and the goodness of God and to convince Eve that by challenging Him, she would be like God (see Genesis 3:5). Satan's plan was to convince Eve that God was trying to suppress her, keeping her from being fulfilled and knowing as much as God. Satan made his temptation of Eve a moral issue; it resulted in belittling God and deifying man. In believing the lie, Adam and Eve chose death, and lost the opportunity to eat of the Tree of Eternal Life.

There is a tendency to think the choice was between good and evil. It was not. The choice was Eternal Life or eternal death. The forbidden tree was the knowledge of good as well as evil. Eating it resulted in death whether Adam and Eve did good things or evil things. Choosing this tree represents human life without the Life of God and that may be very good or very evil but it always ends in eternal death.¹

[1] Martha McCallum, Jane Hamblin, God's Incredible Plan, Media Concepts, Xenos Christian Fellowship, pp. 25-26.

Set Up

Incorporation Lg. Group

The day of class: Have characters ready for white board.

Activity Stations:

- **Parachute**
 - **Instructions:** Use the parachute to play various games suggested in your Activity Station ideas section.
- **Game – Hands on Shoulders[1]**
 - **Instructions:** Have children do each action as you say the poem.

Hands on shoulders, hands on knees,
Hands behind you, if you please;
Touch your shoulders, now your nose,
Now your hair and now your toes;
Hands up high in the air,
Down at your sides, now touch your hair,
Hands up high as before,
Now clap your hands: one, two three, four.

[1] Kathryn W. Kizer, 200+ Games and Fun Activities for Teaching Preschoolers, © New Hope 1989, p. 57.

Introduction Lg. Group

Harold the hippo says “hello, boys and girls.” You know Harold has been telling me about a hard time he’s been having. (Nod puppet’s head, yes.) His brother takes the toy he’s playing with and it makes him mad. But I told Harold that he can choose what he will do. He can choose to be mad at his brother or he can choose to forgive him (Turn to hippo.) You know, Harold, today’s story is about the very first time God forgave the very first people, Adam and Eve. Do you want to hear what happened? (Nod.) Okay, you sit here and listen.

Remember Adam and Eve? (Place Adam with lamb and Eve standing on the white board.) God told Adam that he could eat any fruit from any tree in the garden they wanted, except one kind of fruit. (Point to the forbidden tree on the board.) God said, “You may eat the fruit from any tree in the garden, but you must not eat the fruit from the tree which gives the knowledge of good and evil. If you ever eat fruit from that tree, you will die!” (Genesis 2:16-17).

Listen while I read about Adam and Eve’s bad choice.

"Adam and Eve in the Garden"

Instructions: Read the story on pp. 18-25 of The Praise Bible. Conclude with the gospel below.

Transition

Lesson Lg. Group

Lesson Continued

It was a very sad day when Adam and Eve made the bad choice to disobey God. They could no longer be God's friends because of their bad choice. But God loved Adam and Eve so much that He made them a wonderful promise. He told them that someday He would send someone to take the punishment they deserved for their very bad choice. That person is Jesus. (Place Jesus next to the forbidden tree.) Jesus came to earth to take the punishment that Adam and Eve deserved for their bad choices. But do you know what? We make bad choices too. Jesus died on the cross because everyone makes bad choices and God wants to forgive everyone. God will forgive you if you ask Jesus. Then you will be friends with God and He will live with you forever!

(Pick up puppet.) Harold, do you believe that God wants to forgive everyone? Have you asked God to forgive you for your bad choices? (Yes.) Since God wants to forgive everyone and God forgave you for your bad choices, will you forgive your brother? (Nod head up and down.)

Let's pray now, boys and girls. Let's thank God that He wants to forgive everyone. Let's ask Him to help us love and forgive other people like He loves and forgives us.

Let's make a craft now to help us remember that even though Adam and Eve made a bad choice to disobey God and we make bad choices every day, God wants to forgive everyone.

Craft – Adam & Eve picture

Instructions: Give each child a picture of the tree and Jesus, some fruit stickers and a snake sticker. Put fruit stickers on the tree. Color and put a snake sticker on the tree. Color Jesus. As the children work, talk about Jesus' great love for us. He chose to die on the cross to pay for Adam's and Eve's and our bad choices and disobedience.

Allow the children to put the laminated figures on the white board and retell the story.

Transition

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Learning Activity#2 Sm. Groups

Bible Guy Skit

“The Fall”

Hi there kids! Hey, I gotta tell you what happened. We were having a big party to celebrate my sister, Ruth's birthday. My brother was there and we got into a fight over the last piece of dessert - baklava, my favorite! Ever since we were kids, he would always take the last piece of pita bread, the biggest bunch of grapes, and the last piece of dessert.... and here today, he did it again!

Well, I was so mad that I made a very bad choice.(Bible Guy pantomimes as he tells the story) When he was talking to someone else, I stole the baklava right off his plate. Then I ran into another room and gobbled it down!

(dejected) I feel ashamed and guilty about what I did.I know the scriptures say I should not steal and I did.

(to kids) Would you feel guilty if you made a choice like I did?

(angry again)... but I was mad and it wasn't fair!

(seeing the truth) Still, I know it was a bad choice. I feel ashamed to talk to God now because I know I did something wrong. I feel like hiding from him.

Remember how Adam and Eve felt when they disobeyed God?They wanted to hide, too. Does God want me to hide?

No! He loves me and wants to be close to me. I know he wants to forgive me. He wants to forgive you, too, for any wrong choices you have made. We all make wrong choices, don't we? And we all need God's forgiveness.

That's why he sent his son, Jesus, to die on the cross. Jesus paid for our sins so we can be forgiven and we don't have to hide from God. You can choose to accept God's forgiveness by asking Jesus into your heart.

I have... and I'm so thankful for how God has forgiven me! I think I need to forgive my brother for all the times he took the last piece of dessert.What do you think?

I'm going to tell him I'm sorry I stole his baklava and ask him to forgive me. In fact, I think I'll stop at the market and buy him some more. I better get going. (exiting) I feel so much better now. (big sigh) What a relief...

(exit)