



THE FALL

Preschool-K • #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 sins because of their choice. They will learn that the consequence for sin is separation from God. 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>It's Not My Fault, Lashbrook</i> <p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Harold the Hippo hand puppet</i> <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>Rabbit</i> <i>Adam & Eve's garden</i> <i>Adam with basket</i> <i>Adam Mowing</i> <i>Eve with wheelbarrow</i> <i>Eve planting flowers</i> <i>Eve standing</i> <i>Snake</i> <i>Tree of the knowledge of good and evil</i> <i>Cross</i> 	<p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "I Choose" worksheet, 1/child Crayons, markers <p>Learning Activity #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal size, 2-sided picture w/Adam & Eve in garden & unhappy face on one side and Adam & Eve eating the fruit & happy face on the other side, 1/child Snake stickers, 1/child 6" chenille stems (assorted colors), 1/child 12" chenille stems (assorted colors), 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

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

Incorporation Lg. Group

Activity Stations:

- **Read Aloud – "It's Not My Fault"**
 - **Instructions:** Read the story and discuss the consequences of Adam and Eve's disobedience. Talk about the importance of obeying God because He loves us, knows what we need and wants what it best for us. The best place to be is with God.
- **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.

- **Worksheet – "I Choose"**
 - **Instructions:** Give children a worksheet and have them circle or color the one thing in each row that they would choose. Discuss how good it is that God gave us choices. Talk with them about the value of being able to make choices.

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. Do you know that Harold can choose what he will do? He can choose to be mad at his brother or he can choose to forgive him (Turn to puppet.) You know, Harold, today's story is about the very first time God forgave Adam and Eve. Do you want to hear what happened? (Nod.) Okay, you sit here and listen.

Instructions: Place the laminated figures on the white board as you progress through the lesson.

Remember Adam and Eve from last week? (Place Adam with lamb and Eve on bench on the white board.) Well, they lived in a garden (place garden on the white board) God planted for them. It was the most beautiful garden you could ever imagine and everything was perfect. All the animals were friendly (place rabbit on white board) and there were no weeds and bugs were good things.

Lesson Lg. Group

Lesson Continued

God gave Adam and Eve the job to take care of it, but because it was perfect the work was always fun to do (place picture of Adam carrying basket and Eve pushing the wheelbarrow on white board). Adam and Eve enjoyed the garden and everything in it. God told them that they could eat any fruit from any tree in the garden they wanted, except one kind of fruit. (Place the forbidden tree and Eve 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).

I need your help while I tell you what happened next. When I say "Satan," I want you to say "Liar, liar!" When I say "God," I want you to say "Truth, truth." When I say "Eve," say "No, Eve, No!" Are you ready?

One day Satan (liar, liar!) came to Eve (no, Eve, no!) in the body of a snake (place snake next to or in the tree at Eve's eye level). Do you remember Satan (liar, liar!)? We learned about him two weeks ago. Satan (liar, liar!) is the beautiful angel who made a very bad choice. He lied to the other angels about God (truth, truth!) because he wanted them to follow him instead of God (truth, truth!). Well, it didn't take long for Satan (liar, liar!) to visit Adam and Eve (no, Eve, no!) and to lie to them about God (truth, truth!), too. One day while Eve (no, Eve, no!) was next to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, Satan (liar, liar!), who came in the body of a snake, said to Eve (no, Eve, no!), "Did God say, You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?" Eve (no, Eve, no!) answered, "From any tree we may eat. But this tree God (truth, truth!) has said we may not eat." Satan (liar, liar!), however convinced Eve (no, Eve, no!) to disobey God (truth, truth!). Eve (no, Eve, no!) ate the fruit from the tree and gave some to Adam. He ate it, too.

Thanks for your help. Now listen as I tell you what happened next. A terrible change happened. Because Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they no longer wanted to please God. They had selfish and angry hearts and wanted to do bad things. Instead of loving God, they were afraid of Him and hid from Him. (Place Adam and Eve behind the tree with just their faces looking out.) God called, "Adam, where are you?" Adam said, "I was hiding because I was afraid." God asked Adam, "Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" Adam said, "Eve gave it to me." Eve said, "The serpent tricked me and I ate." Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed Satan.

Do you think God was mad at Adam and Eve for disobeying? God was mad, all right. But He was mad at Satan and his lies. He was also very sad that Adam and Eve chose to believe Satan rather than Him. It was a very sad day when Adam and Eve chose to disobey God- they were no longer perfect.

Lesson Continued

God sent Adam and Eve away from the perfect garden to live in the world where nothing is perfect. Adam and Eve and all their children and their children's children and all people after them would be lonely and afraid. They would live in the world without a relationship with God. (Move Adam and Eve off the board.) But God loved Adam and Eve so much that He made them a wonderful promise—a promise they didn't deserve. He told them that someday He would send someone to take the punishment they deserved for their very bad choice. If they believed that God would send this person to take their punishment they could be friends with God and He would be with them forever. This person is Jesus. (Place cross next to the forbidden tree.) Jesus came to earth to take the punishment that Adam and Eve and all people deserve for our bad choices. Jesus came to earth and died on the cross because everyone makes bad choices and God wants to forgive everyone. God will forgive you if you ask Jesus to take the punishment you deserve for your bad choices. Then you will be friends with God and He will be 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? (Harold says, yes) Since God wants to forgive everyone and God forgave you for your bad choices, will you forgive your brother? (Nod, nod.)

Transition

Let's get into small groups to talk about forgiveness and to pray.

Learning Activity#1 Sm. Groups

- What happens at your house when you make bad choices? (Beware, teachers – many preschoolers don't think they make bad choices. It will be your job to lead them to the recognition that they do.)
- Have you ever had a time out? Why did you have a time out?
- When I make a bad choice like saying something mean to my friend, I know it's important to ask my friend to forgive me. Has anyone asked you to forgive them? Have you ever asked anyone to forgive you?

Let's pray now. 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.

Transition

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 all the time, God wants to forgive everyone.

Learning Activity#2 Lg. Group

Craft – Adam & Eve picture

Instructions: Give each child a printed page, a snake sticker, one 6" and one 12" chenille stem. Color the pictures on the page and put a snake sticker on the tree from which Eve is picking the fruit. Twist the 6" chenille stem around the 12" stem to make a cross. Fold the paper into three sections, with Eve planting and Adam mowing on the front and the unhappy face folded under.

Learning Activity# 2 Continued

As they tell the story of the Fall, begin with Adam and Eve enjoying the yard work in the garden, then go on to their choice to disobey and eat the fruit. When the unhappy face is opened they will put their cross in the space between Adam and Eve picking the fruit and the happy face. Jesus died on the cross and is a bridge to get us to God. 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.

Learning Activity# 3 Sm. Groups

Children may use the figures on the white board to reenact the story of Adam & Eve's bad choice and God's response. Help them remember the sequence of the story and the consequences for Adam and Eve's choice to believe the devil rather than God. Ask them about the choices they make each day.

**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)