



MAN'S CHOICE, GOD'S MERCY

God's Incredible Plan • U1#3 1st-3rd Grade • June 22, 2025

Concept

In His mercy, God offers reconciliation - a way for man to be brought back into relationship with him - to sinful mankind.

Goal

Students will learn that before Adam and Eve disobeyed God, He had a plan to offer peace with Him through Jesus. God values free will so much that He let's us choose whether we want that offer.

Passage

Genesis 3:1-23

Key Verse: "One man disobeyed God, and many became sinners. In the same way, one man obeyed God, and many will be made right." Romans 5:19 (NCV)

Planning Ahead

| Lesson Supplies | Craft Supplies |
|---|---|
| <p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Shadow puppets – lamb, tree, 2 bushes, snake, Adam & Eve</i>• <i>Strong flashlight, 1/class</i> <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Grandpa's Box, Starr Meade</i>• <i>Laminated magnet-backed pictures of:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ <i>Garden with God</i>◦ <i>River</i>◦ <i>Cross</i>◦ <i>Adam & Eve after the Fall</i>• <i>The Mighty Acts of God, Starr Meade</i> | <p>Activity Stations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>9 "Choices" cards</i>• <i>OT/NT cards, 2 sets/room</i> |

*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.

All humanity is born sinful as a result of the Fall. Even as Christians, we continue to struggle with our flesh, the world and Satan. Satan continues to tempt us and is committed to thwart God's kingdom. But we can choose to be victorious by the power of the Spirit of God who indwells us! 1 Martha McCallum, Jane Hamblin, God's Incredible Plan, Media concepts, Xenos Christian Fellowship, pp. 25-26.

Set Up

Incorporation Lg. Group

Introduction Lg. Group

Instructions: Draw the visual on the white board for the Lesson.

Activity Stations:

- **Game – Choices**

- **Instructions:** Have a student pick a card, discuss the situation, consider a biblical principle or verse that might apply and talk about the choice they would make in each circumstance. The idea is not to come up with “the right answer” but to talk about the situation, what might be going on with all parties and how God’s word can positively influence our choices.

- **Where does it go?**

- **Instructions:** Deal the 66 cards to the players. Using the table of contents in a bible, have the students work together to put the cards in order.

- **Missions Prayer**

- **Instructions:** Talk about and pray for the Oasis Giving campaign.

Have you ever thought about the fact that God knows Satan tells lies about Him and does all he can to keep us from believing God? But in His love, God still gives us free will to choose the truth or the lies. Listen while I tell you about two situations.

2 Scenarios

1. A child is discovered as a great ice skater and taken away from his family at the age of nine. He is required to train 8 hours each day, go to bed at 8:00 each night, get up at 5:00 a.m. each day. He is only allowed to eat fruits, meats and vegetables. They give him only one week of vacation each year.
2. A child is a great ice skater. He decides to live away from his family at an ice skating training facility so he can practice 8 hours each day. He falls in bed at 8:00 each night so he can get up by 5:00 each morning to get back to his practice. He eats only a very healthy diet of fruits and vegetables because he hates meat. He wouldn't think of poisoning his body with candy or desserts. He goes home at Christmas so he can spend the holidays with his family, but returns to his training on December 27th.

What is the difference between these two situations? (The first child was told what to do and had no choice. The second child chose this life.) Who can tell me what free will is? (It is the freedom to choose what you want.) In these two situations, even though they both do the same thing, the first child is not allowed to use his free will, but the second child is.

God values free will so much that He gave us the option to choose to walk with Him or without Him, to obey or disobey.

Introduction Continued

Transition

Learning Activity #1 Lg. Group

Transition

Lesson Lg. Group

With the freedom to choose comes the opportunity to make good choices or choices that result in disastrous consequences. Unfortunately, the first man and woman chose to go their own way rather than God's way. Now all people and all of creation suffer the consequences of that choice.

The Puppet Team is here to tell us about that very important choice.

Drama

Shadow Play presented by the Puppet Team

Let's go back to our classrooms and learn about the consequences of Adam and Eve's choice.

Instructions:

Read page 17 starting with "Then, of course..." – bottom of page 19, Grandpa's Box.

Divide the white board in half with an imaginary line. Title one half "Before the Fall" and the other half "After the Fall." On the white board put the laminated pictures described as the lesson progresses. When completed, the pictures should look like the attached picture "God's Plan." Begin by putting up the picture of the garden and the word "God" on the "Before the Fall" side.

This is the Garden of Eden. It was very, very beautiful. Adam and Eve were happy working and serving God here in the garden. They were never sick, never hungry. And they were never alone because God was always there with them.

"After the Fall" side, put the river to the right of the Garden and the picture of Adam and Eve to the right of the river.

Read "God Promises a Savior," pp. 23-25, The Mighty Acts of God.

But after Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, God sent them out of the perfect Garden to a land with weeds and dry ground. So they had to work very hard for their food. At once, they knew that they were different. This made them embarrassed and ashamed. So they had to make and wear clothes. But worst of all, Adam and Eve were lonely because they were not with God. And God told Adam and Eve that all of their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, EVERYONE after them would be born separated from Him. This happened because Adam and Eve used their free will to choose to disobey God.

Lesson Continued

This is a very sad story and I am sure that Adam and Eve were very, very sorry that they made that terrible choice. When God gave them their consequences I bet they wished they could try again and not make that choice! But, you know what? God knew way before He created Adam and Eve that they would make that choice. He knew they would disobey Him and He had a plan to forgive them and be their friend. Our key verse today is, "One man disobeyed God, and many became sinners. In the same way, one man obeyed God, and many will be made right" (Romans 5:19). This verse tells us God's Great Plan. When Adam and Eve chose against Him, they had to leave God's presence. God had to make them leave the Garden of Eden and be separated from Him. But our key verse tells us that God had a plan for man to come back to Him.

Put up large cross in the river showing the crossbar bridging the gap from the hill to God.

When we ask Jesus to forgive our wrong choices and disobedience, He forgives us and makes us acceptable to God. We can then be friends with God and be in heaven with Him forever.

Transition

Let's get into small groups and consider what really happened. Bring your Bibles.

Learning Activity# 2 Sm. Groups

Questions:

- So did Adam and Eve really have a choice? (Yes—to obey or disobey God.)
- Do you notice any difference between what God told Eve and what the serpent quoted God as saying? (Serpent said God told them not to touch the tree. God told them not to eat its fruit.)
- What did the serpent get them to believe about God? (God lied to them and is holding out on them – preventing them from becoming all they can be.)
- Now after they ate from the tree and God called them, do you think God didn't know where they were? (God is all knowing – He would have known where they were and what they had done.)
- Why do you think God called out "Where are you?" (God may have been giving them the opportunity to confess their disobedience.)
- When God asked Adam if he had eaten from the tree his immediate response was to blame Eve. Who did Eve blame? (She blamed the serpent.) We have the first incident of sin and the immediate response to blame someone else rather than to take responsibility for their own choice.

Open you Bible to Genesis 3:14-15 to see the consequences of that first sin.

Learning Activity# 2 Continued

What did God say to the serpent? (He was cursed.) What promise or prophecy did God make in verse 15 about Satan and a descendent of Eve? (Satan would wound the seed of Eve—Christ, and this seed, Christ, would destroy Satan.) God knew Satan would tempt Adam and Eve and that they would fall for his lies. But He had a plan ready well before this time in history. He would send His Son to earth and Satan would wound Him by having Him crucified. But Christ's death would bring victory for mankind and at the end of time Satan will be crushed, destroyed, wiped out and thrown into a lake of fire to be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Let's pray together to thank God that He had a plan to bring mankind back into relationship with Him. Even though Satan is committed to stopping that plan, God will accomplish it. "Adam caused many to be sinners because he disobeyed God, and Christ caused many to be made acceptable to God because he obeyed" (Romans 5:19). All that it takes to start a relationship with God is to ask Him to forgive your sins through Jesus. And if you would like, you can pray for someone who doesn't know God.

Optional Activity

Game – Fruit Basket Upset

Instructions: Arrange chairs in a circle for all but 1 player. Consider the variety of fruit that was available to Adam and Eve in the garden. Select several fruits, one for every three to four players, and each player is assigned a fruit. Have each player sit in a chair with one player in the center. The player in the middle will call out the name of a fruit – say apple – then all the "apples" must get up and move to a different chair while the player in the center also tries to find a chair. The one left standing at the end of the shuffle calls the next fruit. The center player can also call "Fruit Basket". Then all the players must get up and move to a different chair. See who can stay out of the middle the longest.