

Sin Entered the World

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 3:1-24

MAIN POINT: Adam and Eve's sin separated them from God.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.

Leader BIBLE STUDY

Adam and Eve enjoyed all that was good in the garden of Eden. The Lord gave them only one restriction: "You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil," and the punishment was severe: "You will certainly die" (Gen. 2:17).

Before the fall, Adam and Eve enjoyed a loving, two-way relationship with God. The garden was a true paradise. God filled the garden with good gifts so that they might enjoy them and give thanks to God; this glorifies God. All of that changed when Adam and Eve gave in to the serpent's temptation. Eve believed the lie that leads many of us to sin: Maybe God is holding out on me.

Adam and Eve desired something more: the wisdom the fruit offered. But when their eyes were opened, they were aware of their nakedness and they felt ashamed. Surely the Lord's heart broke at their act of disobedience and rebellion. Because of their sin, He cast them out of the garden. Though they did not die right away, sin's effect was immediate and thorough. Their lives and their children's lives—and the lives of all of mankind—would be forever affected by their choice.

God did not leave Adam and Eve without hope. He promised that one of Eve's descendants would strike the head of the serpent. (Gen. 3:15) Each generation after Eve hoped that one of their children would be the Promised One—the One who would crush the head of the snake and put an end to the curse over creation.

Sin is a big problem that needs a big solution. At just the right time, God sent His Son into the world, born as a baby.



Matthew 1:21 says, “You are to name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.” As the kids you teach become increasingly aware of the bad news—that we are all sinners from birth—rejoice with them over the good news: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1 Tim. 1:15).

Introduce the STORY *(before Large Group...)*

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to help new kids connect to your group. Invite volunteers to share something that happened this week that made them feel frustrated or angry. What do they wish would have been different?

Session starter (10 minutes) – **Puzzle race**

Mix up the pieces of a large floor puzzle and pile them at one end of the room. Display the puzzle box at the other end of the room so kids can see the picture.

Guide kids to stand in a single-file line. Explain that when you say “go,” the first player will pick up a puzzle piece, race to the other side of the room, and position it on the floor. Kids should take turns carrying pieces across the room and positioning them together to finish the puzzle. Encourage kids to cheer on their teammates and offer helpful suggestions about where a piece might fit.

If your group is large, choose a puzzle with more pieces or form two or more smaller groups.

SAY • This puzzle looks so much better when it’s all put back together! Today’s Bible story is about something that was broken and God’s plan to put it back together again.

Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Out of Eden” maze on the activity page. Remind kids that when God created Adam and Eve, He gave them a beautiful garden to live in.

SAY • In today’s Bible story, something bad happened and God sent Adam and Eve away from the garden of Eden.

Transition to large group to hear the story...

Apply the STORY (after Large Group...)

Activity choice (10 minutes) — Team representative

Form two or more teams. Instruct each team to choose a representative for a competition. Invite each representative to the front of the room. Explain that each player represents his or her team. If the representative wins, the team wins. If you have a fabulous prize, show it off. Point out that if the representative loses, the team loses.

Give the representatives difficult tasks that they are likely unable to complete. Examples:

- Say the Declaration of Independence from memory.
- Do 50 push-ups in 10 seconds.
- Solve a long division problem without a calculator.
- Count to a trillion, by ones, in 30 seconds

Tip: Allow each child that wants to try an “impossible” task a try.

Finally, announce that every representative lost, so no one receives the fabulous prize.

SAY • In the garden of Eden, Adam was our representative. He was the first man. Adam’s sin affected everyone who came after him—even us today.

Everyone sins, and we deserve the punishment for sin. God said that the punishment for sin is death. Adam and Eve’s sin separated them from God, and sin separates us from God. But God loves us, and He sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from sin. Jesus never sinned. He came to take the punishment we deserve for our sin. When we trust in Jesus, He is our representative. God sees us as Jesus is—perfectly righteous—and gives us eternal life.

Explain that just like God shows us grace when we sin and does not make us pay the ultimate consequence (because Jesus did), you are going to show them grace and still allow them to have the prize even though they did not win. Give each child a treat.



Prayer (5 minutes)

SAY • Think of a time you did something wrong. What was your punishment? The Bible says we deserve to die for our sin, but Jesus came to rescue us from sin. How does this good news make you feel?

Take any prayer requests and then close your time by praying for each child by name, praising God for sending His Son Jesus to take our punishment and for forgiving each of us even when we don't deserve it.