

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

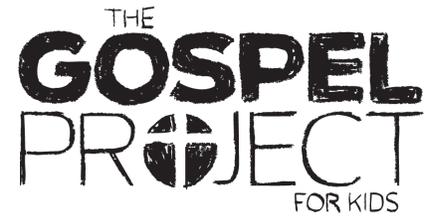
Adam and Eve enjoyed all that was good in the garden of Eden. The Lord gave them only one restriction: "You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil," and the punishment was severe: "You will certainly die" (Gen. 2:17).

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 — Follow my directions

Give each child a plate and a marker. Ask kids to put the plate on top of their heads. Guide them to draw shapes on the plate while continuing to hold it on their heads. Ask kids to draw a circle, and then a square around it. Continue to add more shapes, but be specific as to where kids should draw them. Ask kids to look at their plates and determine if they drew the shapes correctly.

SAY • No one was able to draw the shapes perfectly. Do you think it is possible to follow all of God's instructions in the Bible perfectly? Only Jesus is perfect. Everyone else who has ever lived on the earth has sinned. What is sin? We'll find out what sin is today.

Session starter (10 minutes) — Perfectly perfect

Ask kids to stand in a straight line. Give the first child in the line a paper ball. Guide him to throw the ball into the bucket that you are holding. Make the game more difficult by moving around the room with the bucket. Continue to allow that child to toss the ball until he misses. Each child must sit down when they miss the bucket. Play until all kids have missed the bucket.

SAY • No one could have tossed the ball into the bucket perfectly every time. Even the best basketball players in the world miss shots. Similarly, no one can live a perfect life (a life without sin). What is sin? We'll learn about sin today. In our story, Adam and Eve's sin separated them from God.

Activity page (5 minutes)

Guide boys and girls to complete the activity page.

SAY • What does it mean to be separated from something or someone? Adam and Eve's sin separated them from God. Today, we'll learn more about sin and what happened.

**Transition to
large group to
hear the story...**

Apply the STORY *(after Large Group...)*

Activity choice (10 minutes) - Restoring the broken

Give each child a sheet of paper. Invite them to draw a picture of themselves out in Creation on the paper with the markers. Then guide them to rip it into **ONLY three or four pieces.**

SAY • God created the world, and everything was good.

Then, the serpent tricked Eve into eating the fruit, and Adam ate, too. Sin entered the world, and Adam and Eve's sin separated them from God. Everything was broken, like your artwork. God knew that every person would sin, so He planned to send Jesus to pay for that sin by dying on the cross and rising from the dead three days later.

Help each child tape his paper back together.

SAY • God sent Jesus so that we could be forgiven. He came to fix all the brokenness that was caused by sin. Jesus doesn't just tape us all back together, though. He makes us new — as if we've never sinned!

Truth or lie

Explain that you are going to make some true or false statements. Kids will run to one side of the room if your statement is a truth and they will run to the opposite side of the room if your statement is a lie.

Use the following statements:

- Pizza is the healthiest food on the planet. (lie)
- In Sweden, people hold rabbit jumping competitions. (truth)
- When a stop light turns red, you may drive forward. (lie)
- Canada is the second largest country in the world by land mass. (truth)
- Massachusetts is the smallest state in the United States. (lie)

SAY • Sometimes it can be difficult to know the truth. The serpent told Eve a lie that made her doubt God's goodness. The serpent lied to Eve, and because of it, she sinned. Adam and Eve's sin separated them from God. How can we know what is true? (We can read the Bible, ask God by praying, and so forth.)



Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Describe a time recently that you sinned. Ask if any kids would be willing to share a time that they sinned.

SAY • Adam and Eve's sin separated them from God, but
God sent Jesus so that all who love and trust Him
would be forgiven of our sins. Our sin doesn't have to separate us from
God because of Jesus!

Take prayer requests and pray, thanking God for sending Jesus to pay for our sin.
Pray for each child by name, asking God to help each kid trust Him
and turn from their sins.