



Man Rebels against God

Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–24



LESSON GOAL

Students will understand that God will punish those who don't obey Him.

BIBLE TRUTHS

- God told Adam and Eve not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and He promised a penalty if they disobeyed (Gen. 2:16–17).
- Adam and Eve chose to sin against God (Gen. 3:6–7).
- Sin is disobeying God (Gen. 3:6–11).
- God promised to one day send someone to destroy Satan. That person would be Jesus (Gen. 3:15; Rom. 16:20).

KEY VERSE

“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die’” (Genesis 2:16–17).

APPLICATION

- Remember that all disobedience, big or small, is sin.
- Obey God in all things.
- Know that the only way to escape sin is by trusting Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

NEXT WEEK

Cain Rebels against God
Read Genesis 4:1–15.

Symbol Key



Craft



Finger Play



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Center



Activity



Q & A



Age Group

4

Teacher Planning Sheet

PREPARE

Objectives/Truths to cover this week

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Personal Application

As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to

- _____
- _____
- _____

Three ways students need to apply this passage are

- _____
- _____
- _____

Materials Needed

POINT

Choose from various ideas to point students to the coming Bible lesson.

- _____
- _____

PROCLAIM

Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.

Presentation Ideas

- _____
- _____

Praise/Music Ideas

- _____
- _____
- _____

PRACTICE

Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.

- _____
- _____

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul... You shall teach them to your children” (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

God created Adam and Eve in a state of blessedness. They had a right relationship to God and enjoyed the benefits of purpose, provision, and companionship with Him. This enjoyment was directly tied to their obedience to God and His Word. One of the persistent themes of Genesis is the nature of man’s ongoing relationship with God and the consequences of obedience and disobedience.

Man’s fall into sin is one of the most hotly debated theological issues of our time because the consequences are so significant. If the story of the fall is a myth and man is basically good, then ideas of progress and brotherly love may be pursued with or without a divine mediator. But if the account is to be understood as fully historical in nature, then God’s role in man’s future well-being cannot be denied. Man’s need of God’s grace becomes abundantly clear.

God had commanded Adam and Eve not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:15–17). But the serpent—Satan—led Eve to consider disobeying God’s Word. The serpent’s method of attack is clear; he aimed to get man to distrust God and transgress His Word.

In Genesis 3:1, the serpent cleverly and subtly asked a seemingly innocent question. His question suggested that perhaps God was not being fair with Adam and Eve, despite the fact that He had granted them access to all the other trees. The serpent’s question was designed to elicit a response that questioned the very sanctity of God’s Word. The tragedy came when Eve was deceived into agreeing with Satan’s subtle attack on God.

Once the serpent succeeded in securing a response from Eve, he was ready to openly criticize God and the condition that He had given to the first human couple. Satan openly denied God’s promise of punishment (Gen. 3:4). He then explained why God had issued the prohibition in the first place (Gen. 3:5). What Satan did not say, however, was that Adam’s and Eve’s opened eyes would see all things in the light of their own wickedness and rebellion. Satan implied several things: that the knowledge of good and evil was what made God God; that Adam and Eve were capable of knowing good and evil as perfectly and completely as God did and thus could be like Him; and that God was jealous of His knowledge of good and evil and of His unique place in the universe. The truth was that Adam and Eve could never attain God’s knowledge of good and evil because, in part, to know evil they had to sin, something that God had never done and that would be fatal to their experimental knowledge of good.

Eve’s fall should provide a warning to all believers. She listened to Satan, then responded to him by sinning. Did Eve have a choice whether to sin? James 4:7 says, “Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” Eve sought no counsel from her husband, Adam, or from God. She made a wrong decision based on her own reasoning and desires.

Additional Reference Materials

The Battle for the Beginning by John MacArthur

The MacArthur Study Bible by John MacArthur

First John 2:16 discusses the process of temptation and sin. Eve gazed on the tree, and this led to the “lust of the flesh.” Eve saw that the tree was a delight to the eyes—“lust of the eyes.” The tree made her think not of the disastrous consequence of death, but of the possibility of gaining all knowledge. Looking at the delightful tree was not enough; she desired to eat its fruit and become wise. Thus, she arrived at “the pride of life,” which resulted in rebellion against God.

When Eve did not die immediately, she involved Adam in her sin. She may have felt that the serpent was correct after all. Elated by her “discovery,” she wanted her husband to also enjoy that imagined blessing, and she asked him to eat as well. He did. Adam apparently was tempted in the same way as Eve and with the same result. Adam, then, must have fallen exactly as Eve had, with as little excuse and with as great a guilt. When Adam sinned, “death spread to all men, because all sinned” (Rom. 5:12).

This is why the Bible never places the blame for mankind’s fall on the woman. Our jokes and much of our popular literature blame Eve for the fall of mankind, but Scripture never places a word of blame on Eve. Instead we read, “For since by man came death...in Adam all die” (1 Cor. 15:21–22) and, “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin...by the one man’s offense death reigned through the one...as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners” (Rom. 5:12, 17, 19).

God had promised that in the day Adam and Eve ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they would surely die. Genesis 3 spells out the true nature of man’s spiritual deadness and the ravaging effects of sin. Man is dead because he has cut himself off from the one who gives life.

The first change in man’s condition had to do with how he perceives himself (3:7). Adam and Eve formerly were together in their nakedness and were not ashamed (2:25). However, their fall into sin caused a personal uneasiness, and because of their exposed bodies, shame overwhelmed them. They sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves—a pitiful attempt to replace their prior innocence and soothe their unrest.

Next, there was a change in the spiritual condition of Adam and Eve (3:8–10). The Lord evidently had visited the garden and communed with Adam and Eve on many occasions before the fall. However, the sound of God walking in the garden now aroused fear rather than the joy of anticipating His presence.

As do all sinners, Adam and Eve hid from God. The natural inclination of the heart is not to seek God, but to hide from Him (Rom. 3:10). The unrepentant sinner is on a downward path to destruction, away from the presence of God (2 Thess. 1:9). But God did not give up His pursuit of Adam and Eve, though they had sinned. This is a great picture of God’s concern and compassion for the lost human race.

Adam and Eve refused to accept responsibility for their sin. When God asked them, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?” (Gen. 3:11), Adam blamed Eve for giving him the fruit, and Eve blamed the serpent for deceiving her (Gen. 3:12–13). God was silent. Adam and Eve knew they were fully responsible for what they had done.

God’s Judgment

In Genesis 3:14–15, the judgment on the serpent is spelled out. Verse 14 speaks of the serpent eating dust all his life, a mark of perpetual shame and humiliation. In verse 15, it seems that God’s attention is directed not so much at the

serpent but at the one who was behind the whole affair—Satan. The seed of the woman, the Messiah (the Lord Jesus), would come to destroy the works of the devil. Christ would deliver a deathblow to Satan (“He shall bruise your head”), but in doing so He would suffer pain Himself (“And you shall bruise His heel”). This would not be a fatal blow; Christ would experience death and conquer it through His resurrection.

Genesis 3:16 describes the judgment placed on the woman. She was to suffer greatly in childbirth, an area of her highest privilege. A second part of her judgment was that she would have a desire to rule her husband. A third part of the judgment was that the woman would be ruled by the man. “And he shall rule over you.”

Genesis 3:17–19 describes the judgment placed on the man. God’s judgment on the man focused on his environment. The judgment was not on Adam’s person, but because of him, was on the ground (Gen. 3:17). Physical hardship would be a necessary aspect of everyday life because of man’s sin. The joy of meaningful work was exchanged for strenuous toil. God concluded the judgment with a reminder that men were now mortal. Adam had been created from the dust of the ground, and he would return to it. (Genesis 3:19 indicates that all mankind would be subject to physical death.)

Thus, sinful man became subject to trials and difficulties because of his new condition. That condition is transferred through the generations. Adam’s children and all his descendants were and are born as sinful, fallen creatures (spiritually dead). The image of God remains, but it is marred by the devastating presence of sin.

But out of the blackness and tragedy of man’s fall, grace was found in the midst of justice. Because God is just, He must judge sin. And because God is loving, He gives grace to the sinner. Grace and justice were intermingled as God judged the woman and the man.

In the midst of justice, grace shone forth for the woman because she would “bring forth children.” Through the miracle of childbirth, the human race, sinful as it was, would continue. In grateful acknowledgment of God’s blessing in this regard, “Adam called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living” (Gen. 3:20).

In the midst of justice, grace shone forth for the man in that even though he would have to work hard to provide for his family, God said to him, “You shall eat the herb of the field”(Gen. 3:18). The food produced by the man would sustain the man and woman, as well as the lives produced by the woman.

Most of all, God’s grace was seen as He killed animals and made coats of skin to replace Adam’s and Eve’s inadequate fig leaves (Gen. 3:21). This illustrated to Adam and Eve, who may even have witnessed the death of those innocent animals, the high cost of their guilt. If the concept of sacrifice was not revealed at this time, it apparently was afterward (Gen. 4:4).

To punish sin appropriately and to prevent man from living eternally in his sinfulness, God drove Adam and Eve out of the garden (Gen. 3:22–24). This act was not merely geographical; it was also spiritual. The intimate fellowship that existed between man and God in the garden was broken.

POINT TO THE TRUTH

"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth"
(Psalm 78:1).

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Review Questions

Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.

Did God make man and woman?
Yes.

Did they come from monkeys?
No.

On what day did God make man and woman?
Man and woman were created on day six.

From what did God make Adam?
God made Adam from the dust of the ground.

From what did he make Eve?
God made Eve from Adam's rib.

What jobs did God give man?
Man was to name the animals and tend the garden.

How long does God want a man and woman to be married?
All their lives.

What did God think of man and woman after He made them?
He thought they were very good.



3

Hide under a Blanket

Divide the students into three or four groups. Direct one group at a time to hide under a blanket tent. Talk to the class about trying to hide when you have done something wrong. "Can God see you? Yes. God always knows where you are. In the Bible lesson today, some people try to hide from God. Do you think they can do that? Listen and find out!"



3

Listen and Find

Hide a clock or timer that has a loud tick. Ask the students to be very quiet and listen for the clock. Ask them to search for it. When a student finds it, he should cheer. He is the next one to hide the clock as the others hide their eyes. Talk about how we have to listen to find the clock, but God doesn't even have to hear us. He always knows just where we are. He knew where Adam and Eve were in the garden.



Tree Rubbings

Set simple construction-paper cutouts of trees on the tables. Have each student place a blank piece of paper on top of a cutout tree and use crayons to make a rubbing of the tree. Talk about God making all different types of trees. Ask the students what kinds of trees they are familiar with. Ask, "What grows on trees? How do we use these trees?" In today's lesson, Eve takes fruit from a tree that God told her not to eat from. Ask the students what they think will happen to Eve. If time permits, copy the memory verse at the bottom of the page before the students make the rubbings.



4
5

Forbidden-Fruit Circle

Have the students stand in a circle. While music is playing, have the students pass an apple around the circle. When the music stops, the student holding the apple steps back, and the game continues in the same fashion until there is one person left.



5

Blame Shifting: Two-Sided Hands

Give each student two simple cutouts: one of a hand with a finger pointing out and one of a hand with the thumb pointing in at the chest. Have students glue the hands onto opposite sides of a paper plate or a circle cut out of construction paper. Staple a craft stick to the plate for a handle. Have the students sit on the floor with their crafts. Read the following statements, and have the students hold up their circles to show whether the statement is admitting the blame (thumb pointing in) or shifting the blame (finger pointing out). You can come up with your own statements as well.

"Johnny made me color on the table."

"Susie teased me, so I hit her."

"I broke the toy by playing too roughly."

Tell the class that in today's lesson, they will learn what happened when Adam and Eve disobeyed God and blamed someone else.

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

"Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done" (Psalm 78:4).

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included to use during worship time. Use the lesson questions to check the students' understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Reading of the Text

Read Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–24.

Have your parents ever told you not to play with your toys until you finish cleaning your room? Did you play with your toys anyway? What happened? You got

punished, right? Today, we are going to talk about how Adam and Eve disobeyed a very important and clear command from God.

After God created Adam, He put him in a very beautiful place called the garden of Eden. There were lots of trees and plants. There was plenty of food to eat. God gave Adam the job of taking care of the beautiful garden. It was not a hard job. In fact, it was a very fun job! God gave Adam only one rule to follow: "You may eat from any tree that you want, except from one. You may not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you do, you will surely die." Adam knew it was important to follow God's rule. He told Eve about this command, and she, too, knew it was important to follow God's command.

One day, Eve was walking through the garden, and she met a talking snake! Does anyone know who the snake was? (It was Satan.) The snake asked Eve, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" Eve answered, "We can eat from any tree we want except that one. We are not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil because we will die." The snake laughed. "You won't die! God knows that in the day you eat the fruit of that tree, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good from evil. You want to be wise, don't you?" Eve saw that the fruit on the tree was very pretty and looked very good to eat. So she decided to disobey God and eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And Eve also took some fruit to her husband, Adam, and he disobeyed God too. He ate the fruit. Suddenly, they realized they were naked. They were embarrassed, so they took some leaves from a tree and sewed clothes for themselves.

Then they heard God walking in the garden. They were so ashamed of having disobeyed God that they hid in the trees. God called, "Where are you?" Adam answered, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid myself." Then God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you disobeyed and eaten from that tree from which I told you not to eat?" Adam was afraid, so he said, "The woman You gave me told me to eat it. So I did!" So God asked Eve, "What have you done?" Eve was scared too. She said, "The snake told me to!"

God turned to the snake and said, "Because you have done this, you shall crawl on your belly on the ground for the rest of your life! You will be an enemy of humans, and they will hate you." God was very angry and sad that Adam and Eve had disobeyed Him. He had to punish them as He had promised He would if they disobeyed. God said to the woman, "Because you have disobeyed Me, it will be very painful when you have children. I will also make it very hard for you to obey my command to do what your husband says." And then God turned to Adam and said, "I will curse the ground. It will not be easy anymore to grow plants. You will have to work very hard to make anything grow. You will sweat, and when you get old, you will die."

Then God killed one of the animal friends of Adam and Eve to make them clothes out of its fur. God gave one final command on this very sad day: "Because you have disobeyed Me, you must leave this beautiful garden forever." After Adam and Eve left, God put an angel with a flaming sword at the entrance to the garden to stop them from ever coming back again.

This is a very sad story about what happened when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. God is holy and just—He is God. We all sin because Adam and Eve sinned. God was right to punish Adam and Eve for disobeying, just as your mommies and daddies are right to discipline you when you disobey them. Even though this is a sad story, it does not end here, because God promised to provide a way for the descendants of Adam and Eve to become right with Him again. That way was by Jesus dying on the cross.



Lesson Questions

What could Adam and Eve eat in the garden of Eden?

Fruit from all the trees but one.

What would happen if Adam and Eve ate from the forbidden tree?

They would die.

Who lied to Eve, saying that she would not die?

The serpent, Satan.

What did Satan promise Eve?

She would be like God.

Did Adam and Eve eat from the forbidden tree?

Yes. This was sin.

Did they get punished?

Yes. The man had to work hard to get food, and it would hurt for the woman to have babies. They were both driven from the garden.

Did Adam and Eve die?

Yes. They did not die right away, but they did die eventually.

Is there any hope for us?

Yes. If we put our faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we can be forgiven.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards to present the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces during the Bible lesson.



Pouty Face

Each time you say "No," use a pouty inflection in your voice. The students can relate to that as showing a disobedient attitude.



Fruit

Bring fruit and take a bite when you come to that part of the Bible lesson.



Boo, Hiss

Students can hiss whenever you say the word *serpent*.



Serpent's Lies

As part of the presentation or review of the lesson, use a snake puppet to repeat Satan's lies to the class. After each statement, ask the students, "Was that the truth?" Let them answer with a bold "no." Ask older students if they remember what God really said. Identifying the similarity between the truths and the lies is a useful lesson.

Praise and Worship

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Oh, Be Careful

Seek Ye First

This Is My Father's World

Trust and Obey



Temptation

Eve listened to the serpent's lies;
(Put hand to ear; hiss.)

Forbidden fruit opened their eyes.
(Place closed fists in front of eyes; pop fingers open.)

They hid from God; they were ashamed.
(Cover front of body with hands and arms.)

They knew that they had disobeyed.
(Shake head back and forth.)

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (Psalm 78:7).

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



"God Said" Game

For older students, play this game like "Simon Says." For younger students, every command will be "God said." For example, say, "God said, 'Eat this fruit.'" Continue with other commands: "Dig the thorns. Crawl on your belly. Put on a robe. Leave the garden." Act out the commands with the students.



The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

Give each child a copy of a simple tree drawing on white paper, and have him color it. Next have him glue rainbow marshmallows on for fruit. Give each child a copy of the key verse to glue onto the page. Tell the students that the fruit looked good to eat.

Variation: Have the students glue marshmallows to the "Eve and the Serpent" coloring sheet at the back of this lesson.



Sandpaper Art

Provide each child with a sheet of coarse sandpaper and several lengths of colored yarn. Let the students make shapes with the yarn as they "draw" different things they remember from the Bible lesson (apple, tree with an X over it, animal, plant, serpent, garden, happy face, sad face). The yarn will stick to the sandpaper in whatever shape the students place it. Let them take the sandpaper and yarn home to make new shapes for their parents.



Sewing Leaves

Materials: "Sewing Leaves" craft page or paper leaves, hole punch, string or yarn
Directions: Allow the students to punch holes in the leaves. Then "sew" them together with string or yarn.



The Obedience Game

Read the following five situations to the students. After reading each situation, ask, "Did you obey or disobey?"

1. Teacher says it's time to pick up toys, and you keep playing with them.
2. Mom asks you to help set the table. You help her.
3. Dad says it is time for bed. You say, "I don't want to go!"
4. Mom tells you to share your toys. You let your brother or sister play with your toys.
5. Mom says it is time for a bath. You jump out of the tub.



Roller-Ball Review

With students seated in a large circle on the floor, legs crossed and knees touching, roll a ball from one student to another. The one who catches the ball answers the next question or says the memory verse. You may need to prompt the younger students with their answers.

Coloring Sheets

Give each student copies of the coloring sheets at the back of this lesson. The students can color the pages in class or at home.

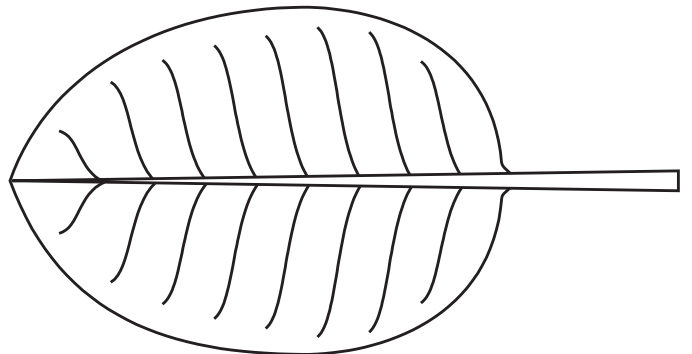
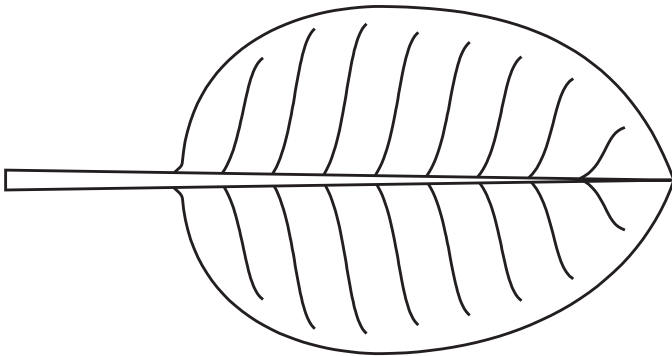
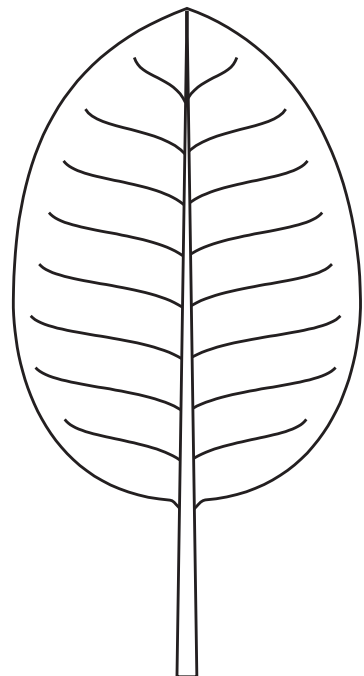
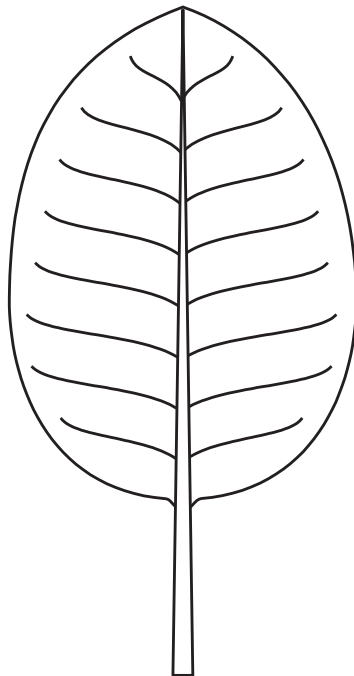
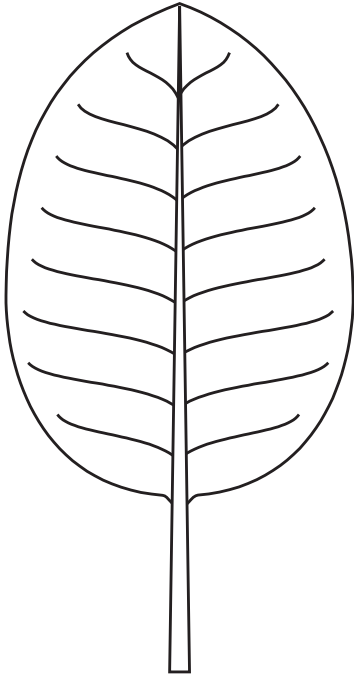
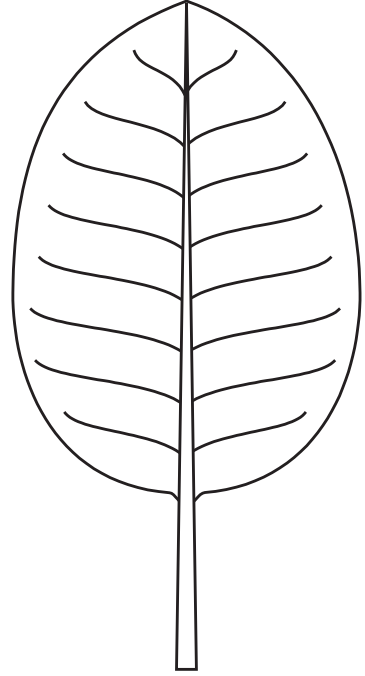
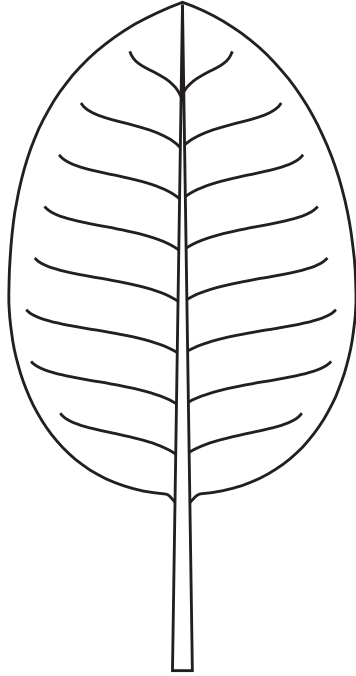
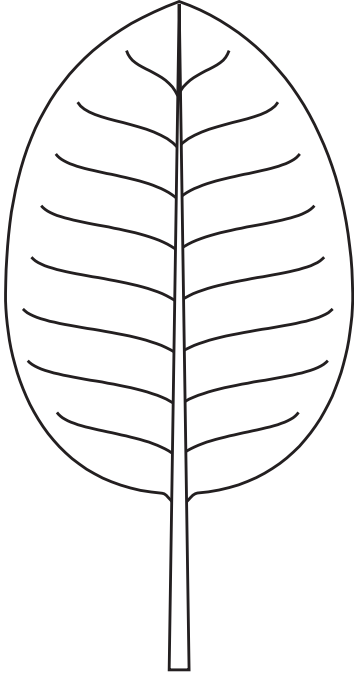


MEMORY VERSE

This is a long verse and may take several weeks, but even three-year-olds can learn this. Explain difficult words each week as you recite the verse.

"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, 'Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day you eat of it you shall surely die'" (Genesis 2:16-17).

Leaves





The serpent tempted Eve, saying, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" (Genesis 3:1).



God drove Adam and Eve out of the garden of Eden (Gen. 3:22–24).

