



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.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to

- Restate God's commandment to Adam and Eve and the penalty for eating from the forbidden tree.
- Identify the serpent's lie to Eve.
- Evaluate what Adam and Eve chose to do.
- List the judgments that God brought on Adam and Eve.

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 punishment for sin is death and hell.
- 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



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



Grade Level

2

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

*Paradise to Prison:
Studies in Genesis*
by John J. Davis

*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.

How was man different from anything else that God created?
Only man was created in the image and likeness of God.

From what were the first man and woman made?
The man was made from the dust of the ground, and the woman was made from a part of the man.

What responsibilities did God give man and woman?
Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth; subdue the earth; rule over the fish of the sea; rule over the birds of the sky; rule over every living thing that moves on the earth.

What was to be the woman’s relationship to the man?
She was created to be a suitable helper.



Wad of Weeds

Bring several different weeds from your yard. See if students can identify some of them. What problems do they cause? Were weeds a part of God’s perfect creation? Were there weeds in the garden of Eden? When did weeds become a problem? (It would be interesting to have a farmer or landscaper lead this discussion. He might share something about the effort it takes to overcome the effects of weeds on his crops.)



House Rules for the Garden of Eden

Lead the class in a discussion of the rules given to them in various areas of life: home, school, road, library, etc. List several categories on the board, and add rules students give under each category. Point out that there are many rules we have to obey throughout life. Emphasize that God gave only one rule for Adam and Eve to obey. Ask whether the students know what that rule was. If they are not familiar with the passage, share the answer by reading God’s instructions in Genesis 2:16–17.



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.



Garden of Eden Mural

Tear off two long sheets of butcher paper. Place the sheets of paper on the floor or on separate tables. Gather materials for the students to use to decorate these sheets of paper (crayons, markers, paints, etc.). As each student arrives at class, assign him a section of the paper and instruct him to draw trees and plants, recreating the garden of Eden. Display the mural as you teach the Bible lesson. Use the review questions as you sit with students making the mural. When you are done, tell the students that these murals will be part of the lesson.



1
2

Hide and Seek

Play a version of hide-and-seek by hiding pictures of Adam and Eve. Have students search for Adam and Eve as God did. Even when we are well hidden, does God know where we are? When we left Adam and Eve last week, they were enjoying God’s fellowship in the garden of Eden. In today’s Bible lesson, Adam and Eve will try to hide from God. Why do you suppose they would do this? Is it possible to hide from God? Read Psalm 139:7–12.

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.

Introduction

Imagine that there was a man who was very good. He never did what was wrong. He did not steal, lie, cheat, or swear. When he was small, he obeyed his parents. When he grew up, he obeyed the law. One day, that person did something wrong, just one thing. And the next day, the police came to his house, took him away, and put him into jail. When his time to go before the judge came, the judge asked him, “What did you do to be taken away and put into jail?” The man answered, “All I did was take an apple from my neighbor’s yard and eat it. It was only an apple.” How should that man be punished for his disobedience? Let’s see what happened to Adam and Eve when they disobeyed God.



Leadoff Questions

LOQ: How many commandments did God give Adam in the garden of Eden?

Answer: God gave Adam only one commandment to obey.

LOQ: What did God warn Adam would happen if he ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

Answer: In Genesis 2:16–17, “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.’”

LOQ: What did the serpent ask Eve?

Answer: The serpent asked, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” [*Emphasize “Has God indeed said” to convey a tone of doubt about God’s command and, implicitly, about the goodness of His character.*] The serpent was trying to get Eve to doubt God.

LOQ: What was the serpent saying about God when he told Eve, “You will not surely die!” (Gen. 3:4)?

Answer: The serpent was saying that God was a liar. But it was the serpent, not God, who was the liar.

LOQ: Should Eve have continued to speak with the serpent?

Answer: No! Eve should have left the serpent and asked for help from Adam and God.

LOQ: After Eve looked at the tree and saw how good and pleasant it was, what did she do?

Answer: Eve took the fruit and ate it.

LOQ: What happened with Adam?

Answer: Eve gave some fruit to Adam, and he ate also. Eve believed the serpent and did what she wanted to do instead of obeying God. Adam decided to follow Eve and eat from the tree also instead of obeying God. They both disobeyed God and sinned.

LOQ: Did Adam and Eve physically die after they ate from the forbidden tree?

Answer: Their bodies did not die immediately, but they began to die. Adam and Eve also died spiritually, which means that they became separated from God in a way that they hadn’t been before. It was like a wall of sin came between God and them. God certainly had not lied to them.

LOQ: When God came to the garden to meet with Adam and Eve, what did they do and why?

Answer: When Adam and Eve heard God coming, they hid. After they had eaten of the forbidden tree, they both became ashamed because they were naked. Because of this, they were afraid of God. Of course, God had never been mean to them or done anything that would have caused them to fear Him. But they had disobeyed Him, and because of the sin that they had done, they were afraid to meet God. This is what sin does to the relationship a person has with God; it separates him from God—like a wall.

LOQ: Whom did Adam and Eve blame for their sin?

Answer: In 3:12, Adam blamed the woman and God, who gave him the woman. In the next verse, Eve blamed the serpent. Neither of them said, “I sinned. It is my fault.”

LOQ: What judgments did God bring on Adam and Eve?

Answer: After God cursed the serpent, He told Eve three things: she would have much pain having a child, she would try to rule over her husband, and her husband would rule over her.

God told Adam that the ground was cursed because of him, that thorns and thistles would grow in the ground and cause problems for the good plants, and that Adam would have to work very hard (“in the sweat of [his] face”) to grow food to eat. This was very different from the way it had been in the garden of Eden!

God also told Adam that just as he came from the dust of the ground (2:7), he would return to the dust. Adam would die physically. So Adam and Eve not only died spiritually, becoming “separated from God,” but they also were going to die physically.

Summary

When God put Adam and Eve into the garden of Eden, He gave them a command to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If they did eat of it, they would surely die.

One day, a serpent spoke to Eve and asked her about God’s command concerning the forbidden fruit. He was trying to get her to question what God had told her and Adam. He even told her a lie by saying that they would not die if they ate the fruit and that God had not told them the truth. Eve did not leave the serpent when he spoke against God. Instead, she stayed and looked at the fruit of the tree and saw that it was pleasant to look at. And so she took some of the fruit and ate. She not only ate, but she also gave some to Adam, and he ate it too.

When Adam and Eve ate the fruit, their bodies did not immediately die physically, but they did die spiritually. The relationship they had with God was broken. They had sinned. Later in the day, God came to Adam and Eve. But they hid because they were ashamed of their nakedness. When God found them, Adam blamed Eve for his sin of eating the forbidden fruit, and he blamed God for giving Eve to him. Eve blamed the serpent. Neither of them said that he or she had sinned.

Because of their sin, God judged and punished them. Eve would have pain when having a baby, and there would also be difficulties between the husband and the wife in marriage. The ground was cursed by God so that Adam would have difficulty farming it. And both Adam and Eve, as well as all their descendants would one day die physically. Then God cast Adam and Eve out of the garden of Eden and placed angels to guard against anyone going back inside the garden.

Application

None of God’s commandments should be disobeyed. Disobedience to God is sin! When Adam and Eve ate from the forbidden tree, they did not obey God, but instead did what they wanted. Only God knows what is best. He has told us what He desires us to do. His commandments are not optional. We must do them. They are all good and right.



Presentation Ideas

A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with this lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



Fruit, Clothes, and Weeds

As you study through the Bible lesson, think of various props to use as you teach. You could bring in fruit for the tree of knowledge, clothes for the curse, and weeds for the curse on the ground. Use these props as you teach the Bible lesson.

Praise and Worship

Cleanse Me

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Oh, Be Careful

Seek Ye First

This Is My Father's World

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Trust and Obey

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.



The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

Materials: blank sheets of paper, crayons, and buttons

Directions: Give each student a blank sheet of paper and ask him to draw a large tree. Then have the students glue buttons onto the trees to represent fruit.



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.



"Man Rebels against God"

Use this work sheet in small groups or individually, or send it home with students to work on with their parents. This work sheet is located at the back of this lesson.



Journal Page: "God Wants Me to Obey"

Give each student a copy of the journal page at the back of this lesson. They can complete the page individually, in small groups, or at home.

Coloring Sheets

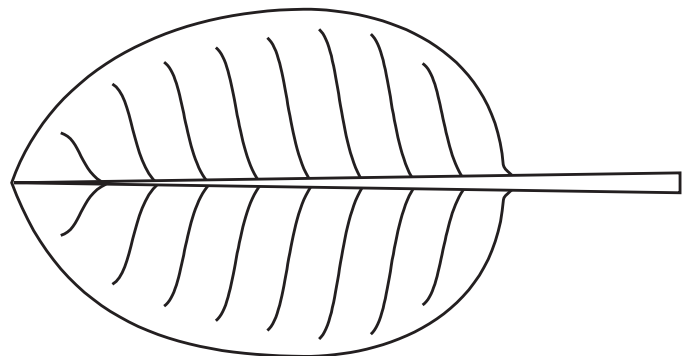
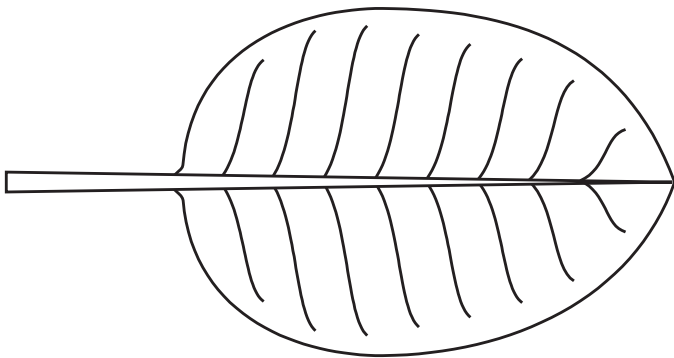
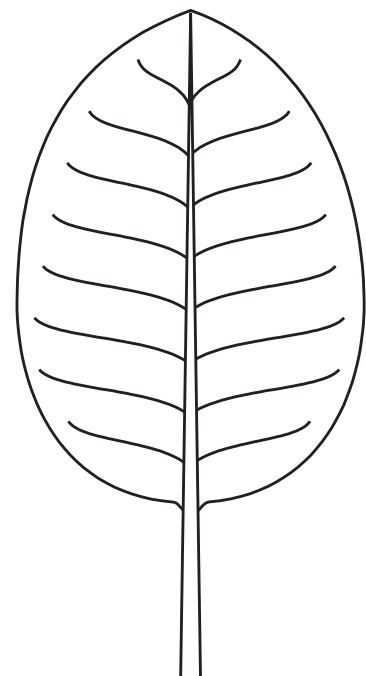
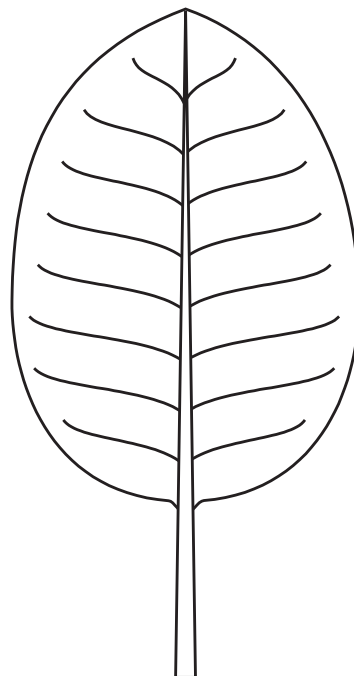
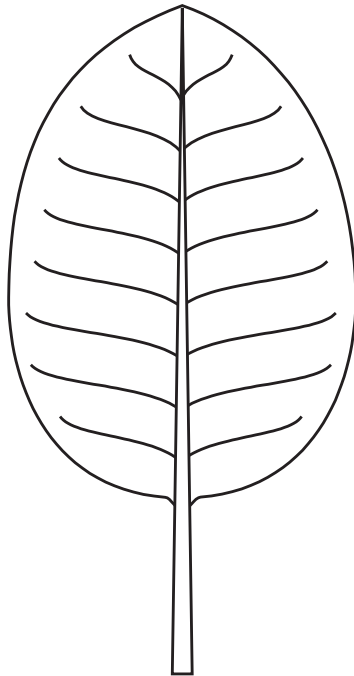
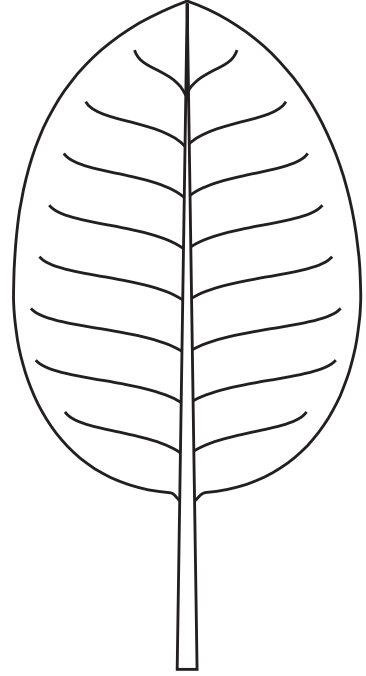
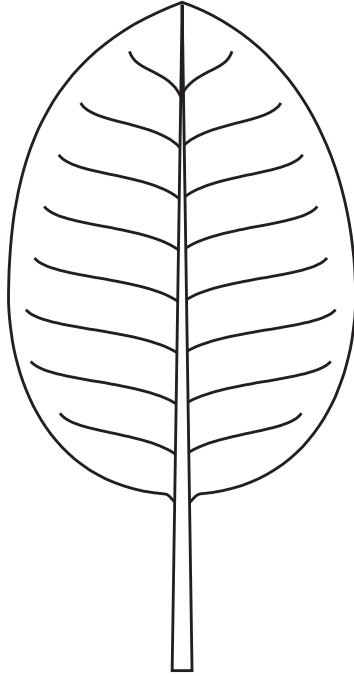
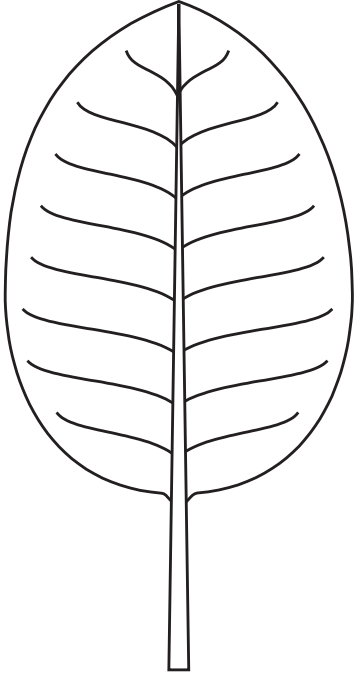
Give each student copies of the coloring sheets at the back of this lesson. The students can color the pages in class or at home.



MEMORY VERSE

“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).

Leaves



Man Rebels against **God** *in the* **Garden of Eden**



Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–24

Name _____

1. God told Adam that if he ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he would _____.
2. Who deceived Eve into eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? _____
the giraffe the lizard
the serpent the horse
3. After Adam and Eve sinned against God, they _____.
fled from God's presence confessed their sin
4. True or False: Although Adam and Eve did not immediately die physically, they did die spiritually. _____
5. Did God punish Adam and Eve because of their sin? _____
6. Did God allow Adam and Eve to continue living in the garden after they sinned? _____
7. Why was it wrong for Adam and Eve to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? _____

God Wants Me to Obey

God commanded Adam and Eve not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. When they disobeyed God and ate the forbidden fruit, they sinned. Because of their sin, they were judged and punished. Below, list what it was like in the garden of Eden before Adam and Eve sinned. Also list what it was like outside the garden after they sinned.

In the Garden

Outside the Garden

God Wants Me to Obey

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In the Garden

Outside the Garden

God wants you to obey; He says so in the Bible. For example, Ephesians 6:1 says, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right:" Can you think of other Bible verses that talk about obedience?

To obey means to _____

I obey God when I _____

When a Christian is tempted to sin, God will provide a way of escape (1 Cor. 10:13). He makes it possible for a Christian to obey. There is never any excuse for sin. Ask God for forgiveness and help in overcoming temptation.

I would like to ask the Lord to forgive me for _____

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"I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,' and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You in a time when You may be found; surely in a flood of great waters they shall not come near him"
(Psalm 32:5-6).

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(Psalm 32:5-6).



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).

