



Dear Parents:

This page lets you know what your child learned today at church. Included are suggested discussion questions and possible activities that you may use to reinforce the Bible story at home. Please ask your child to share today's story with you. You may be surprised at how much he or she remembers!

TODAY'S STORY: FALL

Man and woman – God's special creation – also have free will. They choose to disobey and break their relationship with God. Relationships and life on earth will never be the same again – not with nature, not with each other and not with God.

Today your child learned about how the perfect kingdom was lost. Man and woman walked in the garden with God and had a special relationship with Him. Because of their disobedience, the man and woman's relationships with God, with each other, with animals and with nature was broken. However, today's story also gives hope. The children learned that although God is a just God who punishes disobedience, He is also a loving God who has a plan to restore us and our relationship with Him.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 3

FOCUS FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN:

"God still loves me when I'm bad."

NEXT WEEK'S STORY: ABRAHAM

(Genesis 12:1-7; 15:1-6)

PRAYER:

Teach your children to tell God "I'm sorry" when they disobey Him. Emphasize that God still loves them even when they make bad decisions. Thank God for His love and forgiveness.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What choice were Adam and Eve given?

Why did God have to punish Adam and Eve?

Even after Adam and Eve disobeyed God, what did He do for them to show that He loved them?

How do you know when you are doing something right or wrong?

How does it make you feel when you do the right thing?

How do you feel when you do something that is not allowed?

What should you do to make things better after you have done something wrong?

(Talk about making choices in our lives. Using examples from everyday life, explore ways of decision-making that will help your children choose the right thing. Talk about consequences to breaking the rules. Finally, emphasize how much you love them and your willingness to forgive them when they admit their wrongdoing.)

SUGGESTED PARENT/CHILD ACTIVITIES

Take a walk on a nature path or in a wooded area. Talk about how Adam and Eve used to walk with God everyday in the garden and what that may have been like. Ask your children what they would have talked about with God. What activities would they have wanted to do with God in the garden?

Temptation Challenge:

Set out two plates: one filled with fruit to represent the tree of life and one filled with sweets to represent the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Tell your children that they can eat any (or all) of the fruit, but they cannot eat any of the sweets. Leave the two plates within easy reach for the afternoon. See how children react and reward them for resisting temptation.



A TREE FROM GOD'S GARDEN

Teach your child how to make this "fruit tree" as you discuss the story for this week and the trees in God's garden.

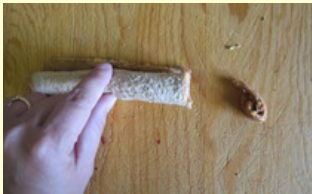
What you'll need:

- ~ slices of bread
- ~ broccoli stems
- ~ small pretzel sticks
- ~ peanut butter
- ~ a rolling pin
- ~ a table knife



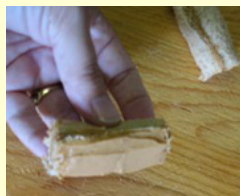
Instructions:

1. Using the rolling pin, flatten the bread.



2. Spread peanut butter on the bread, roll it and slice off the ends.

3. Slice the rolled bread in half. This half will be your base. Spread peanut butter on one side.



4. Add pretzel sticks lengthwise on top of the peanut butter. Repeat this pattern (peanut butter and pretzels) until you cover the whole roll. This forms your tree trunk
5. Add pieces of broccoli to the top. You may use peanut butter to help attach the broccoli.
6. Add coloured candies to represent the fruit on the tree.



7. Make more trees, and enjoy your healthy snacks as you remember the story of Adam and Eve!



ADAM AND EVE SONG

Teach your children this song, and create actions or more verses if you wish.
(Sing to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell.")

Lyrics:

God made the world
God made the world
He saw that everything was good
Yes, God made the world

God created man from dust
God created man from dust
He breathed life in Adam's nose
God created man from dust

God made the woman Eve
God made the woman Eve
He took a rib from Adam's side
And God made the woman Eve

God put them in a garden
God put them in a garden
He said, "All this is yours for good"
God put them in a garden

But please don't touch the tree
But please don't touch the tree
Just please don't eat that fruit you see
Oh, please don't touch that tree

A snake tempted them
A snake tempted them
Adam and Eve ate the fruit
A snake tempted them

God was very sad
God was very sad
He told them they would have to leave
Oh, God was very sad