

Aim: The entry of sin

This is from Patriarchs and Prophets

Our first parents, though created innocent and holy, were not placed beyond the possibility of wrongdoing. God made them free moral agents, capable of appreciating the wisdom and benevolence [or generosity] of His character and the justice of His requirements, and with full [freedom] to [give way] or to withhold obedience.

They were to enjoy [a relationship] with God and with holy angels; but before they could be rendered eternally secure, their loyalty must be tested. At the very beginning of man's existence, a check was placed upon the desire for self-indulgence, the fatal passion that lay at the foundation of Satan's fall. The tree of knowledge, which stood near the tree of life in the midst of the garden, was to be a test of the obedience, faith, and love of our parents. While permitted to eat freely of every other tree, they were forbidden to taste of this, on pain of death. They were also to be exposed to the temptations of Satan; but if they endured the trial, they would finally be placed beyond his power, to enjoy perpetual favour with God. PP 48.4

God placed man under law, as an condition of his very existence. He was a subject of the divine government, and there can be no government without law. God might have created man without the power to transgress [or break] His law; He might have [stopped] the hand of Adam from touching the forbidden fruit; but in that case man would have been, not a free moral agent, but a [robot]. Without freedom of choice, his obedience would not have been voluntary, but forced. There could have been no development of character. Such a course would have been contrary to God's plan in dealing with the inhabitants of other worlds. It would have been unworthy of man as an intelligent being, and would have sustained Satan's charge of God's arbitrary rule. PP 49.1

God made man upright; He gave him noble traits of character, with no bias toward evil. He [gifted] him with high intellectual powers, and presented before him the strongest possible [encouragements] to be true to his allegiance. Obedience, perfect and perpetual, was the condition of eternal happiness. On this condition he was to have access to the tree of life.

Everyone open to Genesis 3.

Read the serpents first question in verse 1b.

Brainstorm: when the serpent started talking to Eve, what else could she have done? (eg. Put her fingers in her ears and run away screaming 'Help! Help!')

The serpent purposely asked a trick question, so that Eve felt she needed to explain; he wanted to keep her there, talking. So Eve lingered near the temptation and talked with the serpent. The decision hadn't been made at that point, but the longer she lingered, and the closer she came, the stronger was the influence that the serpent had, the more likely she would be to fall into the temptation. This is true of all temptation, the closer you are, the longer you are near it, the stronger it becomes and the more likely you are to fail.

Read what the serpent said next in verse 4.

Is this true or false? (false)

Read what the serpent said next in verse 5.

Discuss: Is this true or false?

There is some truth in this statement, but it is a twisted, evil truth, not God's truth. Satan is a master deceiver, and by now he has had several thousand years of practice. We are safest when we spend regular time with God, when wait for God's timing – imagine what would have happened if Eve had said, 'This may be true, but I am going to ask God about it and wait for His timing.'

So Adam and Eve both ate the fruit.

Read Genesis 3:7

Optional Activity: Over the page) is a picture of what fig leaves look like. These days they are usually between 15-30cm. Imagine if you had to make yourselves clothes using these leaves and other natural material – how would you do it?



Read Genesis 3:8-11

Choose 4 people to read the next section, each speaking a different part and pointing where appropriate.

1. The Lord
2. Adam
3. Eve
4. The serpent

Have these 4 people read the words from verses 9-15

Write verse 15 in large letters on a whiteboard or paper.

Read John 8:42-44

Who is speaking, who is being spoken to? Replace the pronouns in the verse with the names of the people.

[God] will cause hostility between [Satan] and [Eve or humans], between [Satan followers] and [us]. [Jesus] will strike [Satan's] head and [Satan] will strike [Jesus]' heal."

Which is more likely to be worse? An injury to the head or the heal?

Imagine someone receives a snake bite on the heal – if it is treated properly, the person will recover. Then imagine the snake with its head cut off. The wound will be fatal.

When did Satan injure Jesus? (On the cross)

When will Jesus kill Satan? (After the end of the world, at the end of the 1000 years, before remaking the new earth.)

Genesis 3:15 is also a good verse to use with the ABC Prayer. God is the only One who can give us a hatred for sin – otherwise we will find sin and the things of this world attractive. This verse is a promise that we can Ask, Believe and Claim that God will work to turn our interests towards His things.

Turn to the back page of the workbooks and look at number 6. Discuss the question: By whose hand was the first life taken? **Read Genesis 3:21** (Cain took the first human life. God took the first animal life for clothes for Adam and Eve.)

Those who are here this week can put a sticker next to requirement #6.

Read Genesis 3:22-24

When life is going well, we might think that we would like to live forever. That was God's original plan, but to live forever in this sinful world would not be a nice thing. Just think, not only did Adam go through the pain of one son murdering another; Adam was still alive when Noah's father was born. He would have seen the earth filled with his descendants, and watched and no doubt pleaded with them, as almost all of them rejected God.

What might Adam and Eve have been thinking and feeling as they watched these things happen? (Sad, guilty)

Open to the first page in the workbooks and fill in some of the lines here (See Genesis 3:16-19 for some ideas)