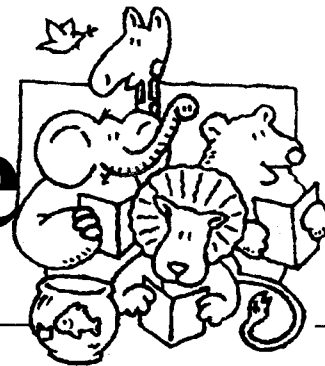


SKY

Learning Obedience
Series 1—Lesson 1

StoryTime



A Stranger in the Garden

Primary 3-7

Bible Text:

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-24

Lesson Aim:

To teach trust in God and His Word and to realize the seriousness of disobedience and its consequences. You get in BIG trouble when you don't listen to God.

Memory Verse:

"Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it"—(Luke 11:28).

Words to Learn:

- Trust
- Obey
- Consequences

Always Close in Prayer

The Teacher's Bible Study

All humans are born morally neutral, as was Adam when he was first created. Unfortunately, Adam and Eve chose to follow Satan the devil and thus sinned, so that their frame of mind and direction became evil and perverted. Likewise, as we sin, our minds become perverted from their moral neutrality and become self-oriented, filled with vanity, jealousy, lust, and greed; our minds become influenced as Satan's mind is oriented—the opposite of God's mind.

In Satan's encounter with Eve he began by planting the seeds of doubt and mistrust toward her Maker (Genesis 3:1-5). He went on to scoff at the warning that God had given to His children. "You will *not* surely die. [From the beginning until now all mankind has wanted to deny this truth.] For God KNOWS that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and YOU WILL BE LIKE GOD, knowing good and evil."

In this accusation there are several things to think about: Satan was implying that God couldn't be trusted, that He would LIE in order to maintain His position; that He would deny His children something that was GOOD for them—that he was really giving an accurate description of HIMSELF!

The Bible tells us Satan is the "ACCUSER of our brethren" (Revelation 12:10). It's a fitting title. He's been diligent in his accusations and blame-placing day and night, and will until the end.

This attitude of accusation, mistrust, and the placing of blame for misfortune toward the great and good Creator God is still with us to this day. When trial comes it is almost the automatic response of people to say, "Why is God doing this to me?"

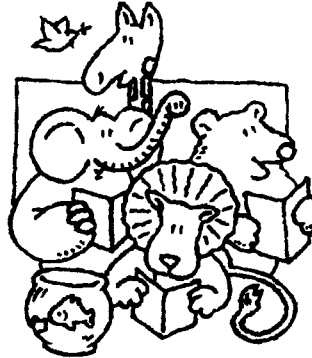
The Bible states that "the carnal mind is enmity against God: for

it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Romans 8:7), and that man's "heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9)—reflecting clearly in both scriptures what is the attitude of Satan.

Satan, as we see from this lesson, introduced sin to mankind through Adam and Eve. Although created in moral and spiritual neutrality, Satan deceived Adam and his wife into disobeying God's command that they must not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. In turn, all since Adam and Eve (except Jesus) have sinned and incurred the death penalty for their own sins. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin: and so death passed upon all man, for that all have sinned..." (Romans 5:12). We've been in **BIG** trouble since the beginning!

Man had needed a Savior, a Redeemer, from the beginning. And God the Father gave us the BEST. Jesus paid the price to buy back ALL of mankind from the ultimate death sentence. The Great Giver of all good things offers us the priceless gift of LIFE. That's how much He loves us. □

Simple as 1,2,3...



1. Additional Reading for Teacher Study

Proverbs 28:26

Jeremiah 17:5

Psalms 112

2. Are You Listening?

After you read or tell the story you may ask the following questions:

1. What was the name of the garden?—Eden

2. True or False:

The name "Adam" meant "earth" or "red clay,"—TRUE

3. True or False: Eve was the first mommy—TRUE

4. Did Adam and Eve listen and obey God their Father?—NO

5. Did bad things happen when they did not listen and obey their Father?—YES

6. Did Adam and Eve get in BIG trouble?—YES

7. Will God force you to do what is right?—NO

3. Word Definitions

These definitions were taken from Webster's New World Dictionary.

- **Trust**—Reliance on the integrity, strength, and ability of a person or thing; One upon which one relies; surety; confidence
- **Obey**—To comply with the wishes, requests, demands, requirements, or conditions; to follow; to respond readily
- **Consequences**—the result of something happening earlier

SKY Story Time

A Stranger in the Garden

God is powerful, wise, and good above all. He made the heavens, the earth, and all things in them. There were no people on the earth in the beginning. But God set about to create a home for a very special creation—His first children.

He created the light and the dark; made the seas, the dry land, the sun, the moon, and the stars. He made all the fish. He made the grass, trees, and plants. He made the birds and animals. **EVERYTHING HE MADE WAS VERY GOOD!**

God did all this in six days. And on the seventh day He rested. So He blessed the seventh day and called it a holy day. It is called the Sabbath.

The first man and woman God made were called Adam and Eve. Adam's name meant "earth," or "red clay." Eve's name meant "life." She was the first mommy, or "the mother of all living."

God placed the man and woman in a beautiful garden called Eden. In this garden there were all kinds of animals, birds, and trees. Not only were the trees lovely to look at but some had delicious fruit on them for Adam and Eve to eat. There was only **ONE** tree that

God warned them not to take food from.

They were very happy. God had given them the most beautiful home on earth, with lots of good things to eat, so many different animals to name and watch, so much to learn and do. God watched over them, talked with them, and loved them so very much.

Here Comes Trouble

One day the strange beast, called the Serpent, came into the garden and looked for God's children. He was on a mission to destroy what he knew God loved very much.

He hissed and muttered while he patiently waited. Finally Eve walked by and he stopped her. "Did God **REALLY** forbid you to eat the fruit of some of the trees in the garden?" he asked, in apparent disbelief. She answered that they could eat of *every* tree but the **ONE**, which grew in the middle of the garden, because then they would **DIE!**

"Die? Oh surely you don't believe that!" he scoffed. He was accusing God of not telling them the truth. He claimed that God didn't want them to be like Him!

Satan knew that if he could

get Adam and Eve to doubt God's power and goodness, he could get them in BIG TROUBLE. After all, he and a few of his friends had been in BIG TROUBLE themselves—God had thrown them out of heaven!

Satan HATES God and what God loves, and he knew God loved His two children. Satan is still jealous of God's children and never gives up trying to get US in BIG TROUBLE.

But it's Just fruit!

Eve looked at the beautiful tree and the fruit looked so good and sweet. What could be the harm in a little nibble? It's just a piece of fruit! Can you guess what she did?

She ate a piece of the fruit and then shared it with Adam. He too ate the fruit.

Later that evening they heard God's voice and knew He was coming to see them. But they hid because they knew they were in BIG TROUBLE.

As soon as God found them He knew something was wrong. He asked what they had done and they tearfully confessed to Him.

Then God sadly told them what must happen now because they did not listen to Him. They had some hard lessons to learn, and the consequences of eating "just a piece of fruit" would have some long-lasting effects.

They had to leave their beautiful home, and their lives were never going to be the same for as long as they lived.

Let's Talk About It...

Sin entered the world when Adam and Eve did what they had been told not to do. Do you know what sin is? It is when we do wrong things. Sin is very serious. When we disobey it makes God very unhappy because He doesn't want us to be hurt or unhappy, and sin brings pain and unhappiness. But He will not FORCE you to do what is right. He wants us to CHOOSE to do what is right.

Sin brings *consequences*.

The End

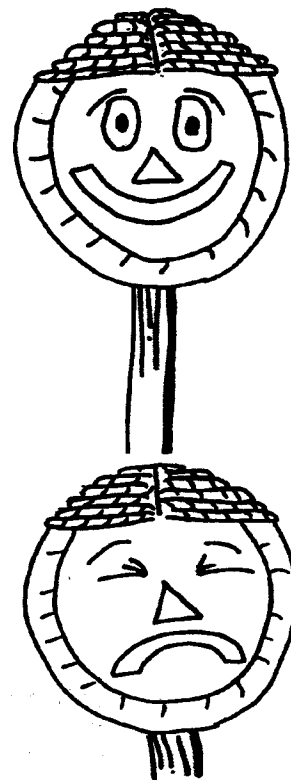
Crafty Idea

Series 1—Learning Obedience

Have students use felt-tip pens to make a happy face on one plate and a sad face on the second. Cut yarn and glue in position for hair on both plates. Attach the tongue depressor on the back of the "face." Run a bead of white glue around the outside edge of paper plate; press second paper plate into the corresponding position on the back side with tongue depressor attached, let dry. Talk to your students about how the consequences of sin makes us sad. Obeying God makes us happy. □

Crafty Ideas

Sad to Happy Little Fella



Materials To Use:

- Tongue depressors or paint stirrers
- paper plates
- Colored felt-pens
- Strips of colored yarn for hair
- White glue