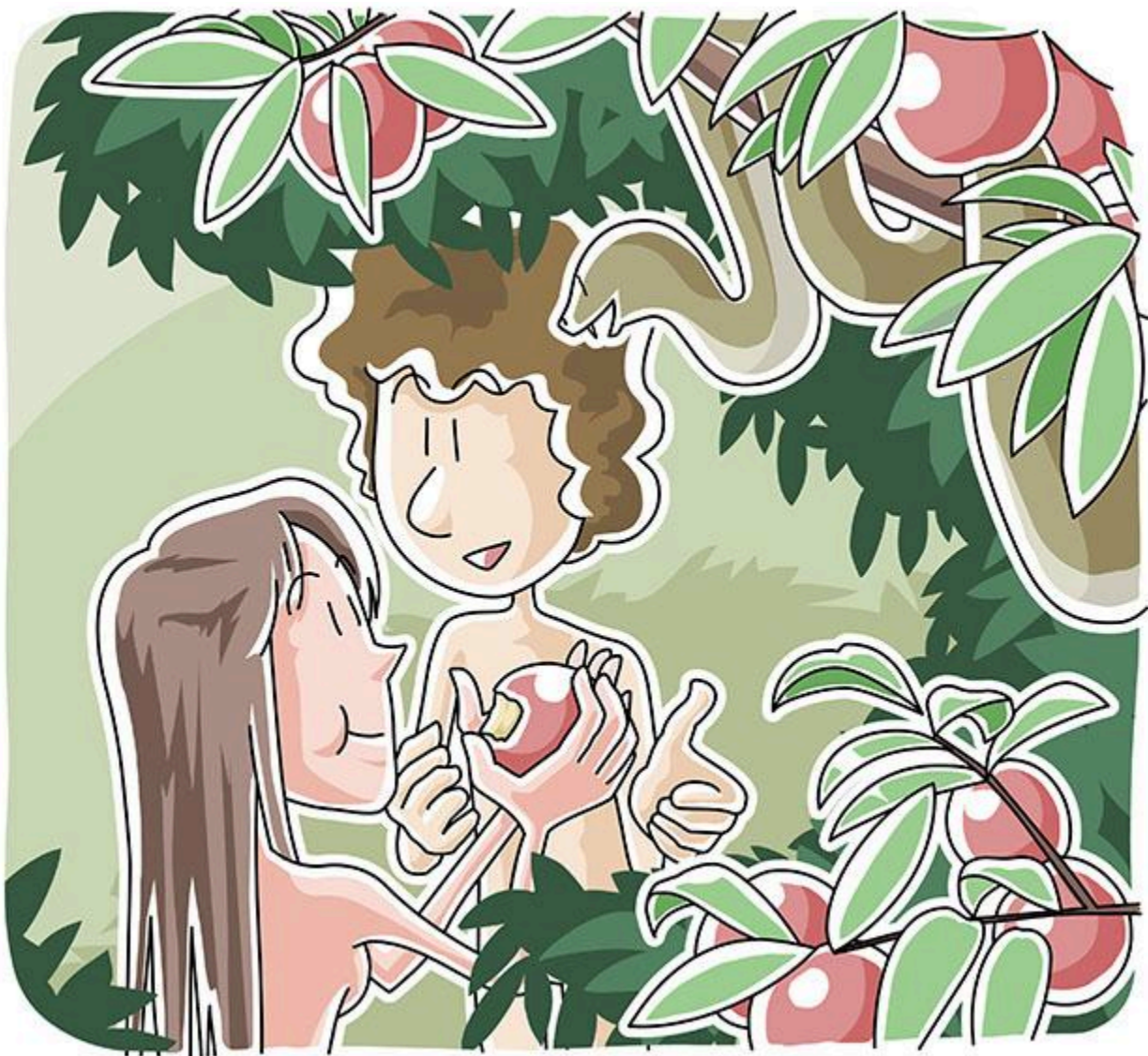


# Hope in the Fall of Man

## Genesis 3 and God's Plan

Genesis 3:1-15 KJV

*Bible Lesson & Activities for Children*



THE **SUNDAY SCHOOL** STORE

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# The Hope of Redemption

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The Fall of mankind into sin is a rather devastating story, but there's a glimmer of hope in the midst of it. Adam and Eve were tempted by Satan and disobeyed God, and as a result we are born into sin and there is evil in the world. But we know evil doesn't win in the end! This lesson reminds us that we make mistakes and there are consequences for them, but God restores us and makes us new in Christ Jesus. Even from the beginning, God promised to send a savior who would "bruise the head" of the serpent and set things right again.

The law reminds us that we are sinful, we don't measure up, and there will be punishment for disobedience. The Fall of Adam and Eve gives us the origin of sin, but also offers an encouraging reminder that we have hope in spite of it. We know that we cannot keep the law, but God sent Jesus to keep the Law for us, and to die for us so that we could have new life! The good news of the Gospel is that Christ came in the midst of sin and gives us restoration. We are born again in Him, and all of the broken things are made new.

**Passage:** Genesis 3:1-15

**Target Audience:** Kindergarten-6th grade

**Materials Needed:** Broken item, whole or restored item, balloons, blocks or dominoes, apples, snake toys, construction paper, decorative materials, scissors, tape, paper plates, markers, Bible.

## More Resources Online

- Watch the [video demonstration of the object lesson](#).
- Watch the [video example for the craft projects](#).
- Watch the [video Bible story "Adam and Eve sin"](#) from Saddleback Kids Club
- Watch the [video Bible story "Gods Story: The Fall"](#) from Crossroads Kids
- For more free illustrations, visit [Christian Clip Arts](#) and [Ministry-To-Children](#)

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## Object Lesson (5 minutes)

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*Greet children and demonstrate something broken beyond repair...*

Hello, children of God!

Have you ever broken something, or made a really big mess of things? I've made a lot of mistakes that resulted in broken things. In fact, I brought with me an example of something I broke. *Hold up a picture or bag with the broken or destroyed item.* I wasn't being careful, and it completely shattered. There's no way I could put this back together now! As a result of my actions in dropping it, this is broken. I don't have it anymore as a consequence of that mistake. How can I possibly make things better? Well, the only thing I could do would be to replace this. *Hold up an example of a new "replacement" item.* If I get something brand new, it will replace what was lost. In fact, it's even better than the original.

You know, there are times in our lives when we make mistakes and in a sense "break things." We mess things up a lot, and sometimes it seems like we can't fix them. Well, we can't, but God can. Do you know why things are so messed up? It's because we are sinful. This goes way back to the very beginning. God made things perfect, and He gave Adam and Eve instructions to help them stay in a perfect world. But Satan came along and tempted Eve, telling her that disobedience would make her happier. She gave in, and disobeyed God, and Adam did, too. Sin has consequences. As a punishment for their actions, God kicked them out of the Garden of Eden and made them work hard for things in life. We are also now born sinful as a result. Bad things happen and sad things happen, because sin and evil are in the world.

There is good news despite all of this, though. God provided hope in the sorrow. God told Adam and Eve of the punishment, but also foretold a plan for redemption. Even from the

start, God had a salvation plan. He announced that the serpent would bruise the heel of man, but that the serpent's head would be crushed. God knew that a human would come who would destroy Satan's power and make new life possible. He knew that because He was the One who came to Earth and was willing to suffer for us. The punishment and pain resulting from sin were all heaped upon Him, and He died to give us life. He doesn't just put the shattered pieces back together, but gives us something new and wonderful. Sin is not the end. Death is not the end. God gives new life!

**Prayer: (Invite the children to repeat each line)**

Dear God,

Thank you for the hope of redemption.

We know that we sin,

But you promise new life.

Help us to obey you.

Thank you for your love

We love you, God!

In Jesus name, Amen!

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# Game & Activities Suggestions

## (10 minutes)

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This important Bible passage explains a devastating part of human history: temptation led to sin, and sin led to death and sorrow. Despite this, we know that God had a plan from the very beginning, and that because of Jesus we can be redeemed and have new lives. This lesson looks at temptation, evil, consequence, and salvation. Start off with an activity that gets kids thinking:

- Hide and Seek: In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve tried to hide from God (not a great idea!). Play a simple game of hide-and-seek, or try a variation like sardines or hiding a small item for children to find.
- Apple ball: We don't know what kind of fruit Adam and Eve ate from the tree, but play a fun game to "deny the temptation." Use tennis rackets or baseball bats to hit apples as hard as possible, or simply take turns throwing them or using a slingshot to launch them (note: do this in an open outdoor area, and stay clear of flying apple pieces!).
- Build a tower of blocks or dominos, and watch them fall over as a consequence of one being tipped. Discuss how our actions have consequences and sin can lead to greater sin, but we can also influence people in positive ways!
- Broken and restored: look at an item that has been broken, but can be put back together again. Alternatively, look over something that cannot be fixed, and discuss how to place it with a new and better item. Discuss how God fixes all of the broken areas of our lives, no matter how much we mess up.
- Snake stomping: consider how the snake's "head will be crushed" with a balloon stomp game. Have students use ribbon to tie balloons near their ankles. Invite them to try stepping on other balloons to pop them, without getting their own balloon squished.

Explain that the passage today reveals how sin entered the world and why we experience evil and sadness. It's hard to face consequences for sin, but we know that we have the blessed promise of redemption in Christ Jesus!

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## Main Bible Teaching (15 minutes)

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This passage, from Genesis, can be a good one to act out with students role playing or using puppets. You might also simply read and explain it with the group to allow for more discussion. Older students can help take turns reading, and you can read aloud and describe for younger students.

**Genesis 3:1-3 KJV** *Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? (2) And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: (3) But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.*

If students are not familiar with what preceded this passage, you might need to offer a little extra explanation about how God created Adam and Eve and commanded them not to eat of a certain tree in the Garden of Eden. That was the only prohibition, but Satan focused on it. He came as a crafty snake to tempt Adam and Eve. His first attack was to question God's rules. He asked Eve what God had instructed, and she told him exactly what God had said. So then the serpent (Devil) twisted God's commands.

**Ask:** Are you ever tempted to disobey? Why is it sometimes hard to fight temptation?

**Genesis 3:4-7 KJV** *And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: (5) For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. (6) And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be*

*desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. (7) And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.*

Eve gave in and listened to Satan's sneaky lies. He told her that eating the fruit would make her wise, and she believed it. She ate the fruit and shared it with Adam.\* They did receive a certain type of knowledge and wisdom, but not in a good way. Shame entered the picture here, because previously they were not wearing any clothes, and entirely unconcerned about it. Suddenly, though, they realized that they were naked, and wanted to cover their bodies (and their sin). They made clothes out of leaves to hide their nakedness. They knew they had disobeyed God and His wishes.

\*It's worth pointing out (at least, for older students) that Adam and Eve were together for this interaction. Sometimes we have the idea that Eve was alone with the serpent and thus more culpable for the Fall into sin. While she did eat the fruit first, Adam was with her (verse 6), and did nothing to stop her from sinning. They both failed to follow God's instructions.

**Ask:** Have you ever thought you could get away with something, and then felt guilty about it?

**Genesis 3:8-10 KJV** *And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. (9) And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? (10) And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.*

Adam and Eve heard God, and knew that they had disobeyed Him. They tried to hide from Him, which of course is quite impossible since God knows everything (clearly the serpent was wrong in trying to convince them they'd be like God!). God called to them, though He already knew they were hiding. Adam admitted that he had tried to hide from God and was ashamed of his nudity.

**Ask:** Have you ever tried to hide something from your parents? Why does this usually fail?

**Genesis 3:11-13 KJV** *And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? (12) And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. (13) And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.*

After being caught, Adam and Eve both tried to shift the blame. Adam explained that he only ate the fruit because Eve gave it to him. Eve said that she ate the fruit because the serpent tricked her. They both tried to excuse their sin, but ultimately knew they had done wrong and were guilty.

**Ask:** Have you ever tried to blame someone else for something you did?

**Genesis 3:14-15 KJV** *And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: (15) And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

These verses give a hard fact of consequence for sin, but a glimmer of hope as well. Because of disobedience, Adam and Eve faced punishment (outlined in the verses following this passage, if you care to review them as well). The serpent was cursed to



slither on his belly eating dust (some speculate that snakes might have had legs before this). There would be evil and sorrow and hardship. Yet verse 15 gives a bit of prophecy. God told the serpent that he would “bruise the heel” of mankind, but that the offspring of the woman would bruise (or crush, according to translation) his head. These words spoke of someone who would come, born of a woman, to defeat death and the devil. We know who that is...Jesus! Even from the beginning, God had a plan. His perfect garden was crushed and the people He loved and created had sinned, but He would restore it. God Himself would become a man and suffer the punishment of sin, in order for us to have new life. He would restore things and bring them back to order. That is the hope that we have. We know there is evil and pain and sin in the world. But we know that Jesus is stronger than all of that, and He always wins in the end!

Emphasize the hope of redemption. While we know that sin and evil make life hard, and we are born sinful, we also know that Jesus loves us enough to die for us, and that He triumphs over Satan’s darkness. When we do wrong, we can pray to God for forgiveness and restoration, and we can be confident that He provides that. What a comforting truth to take away, even in the midst of a rather sad story!

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# Craft one: "New Hearts Card"

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You will need:

- Construction paper or cardstock
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Glue or tape
- Extra decorations as desired (stickers, glitter, etc.)



Procedure:

1. Cut a heart out of a large piece of construction paper or cardstock.
2. Glue the "frame" from the heart onto another piece of construction paper or cardstock.
3. Tear or cut the heart cut-out into many small fragments.
4. Glue the pieces of the heart onto the front of the card.
5. Add verses and captions to indicate how God repairs our hearts. Add additional decorations as desired.



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## Craft Two: "Sneaky Swirly Snake"

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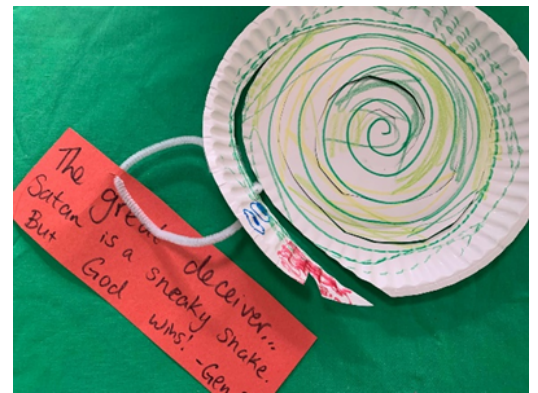
You will need:

- Paper plates
- Pipe cleaner or string
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Construction paper or cardstock
- Extra decorations (optional)



Procedure:

1. Decorate the paper plate with colors and decorations as desired.
2. Cut around the plate in a "swirl" or snail-shaped pattern from the outside in (it may help to draw this first).
3. Add snakelike features to the head, if desired.
4. Add a hanger (string or pipe cleaner) and verses or captions.
5. Hold the "snake" up to view the pattern.



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## Genesis 3:3 KJV

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*But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.*



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## Genesis 3:3 KJV

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*But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.*



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# Word Search Puzzle

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Adam - Eve - Serpent - Trees - Fruit - Good

Evil - Command - Garden - Deceive - Offspring - Sin

K	X	T	H	C	J	X	G	J	N	T	H
L	G	E	K	J	L	X	U	Z	W	Z	V
D	S	T	W	H	A	T	Y	K	A	R	D
Y	C	O	O	D	F	C	K	G	O	M	F
O	O	F	F	S	P	R	I	N	G	C	W
S	M	G	A	X	F	P	N	Y	Y	D	J
P	M	O	B	Y	J	T	V	T	X	K	O
A	A	O	M	U	S	X	U	R	O	F	W
M	N	D	E	C	E	I	V	E	E	R	S
H	D	G	A	R	D	E	N	E	V	U	Q
M	F	U	K	M	H	T	B	S	E	I	F
L	E	F	A	S	E	R	P	E	N	T	L

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## Word Search Answers

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K X T H C J X G J N T H  
L G E K J L X U Z W Z V  
D S T W H A T Y K A R D  
Y C O O D F C K G O M F  
O O F F S P R I N G C W  
S M G A X F P N Y Y D J  
P M O B Y J T V T X K O  
A A O M U S X U R O F W  
M N D E C E I V E E R S  
H D G A R D E N E V U Q  
M F U K M H T B S E I F  
L E F A S E R P E N T L