

LESSON AIM: To show how man sinned in the garden and how that sin brought suffering death and separation from God to all mankind.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Genesis 3:1-6

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- 1) What does the word “create” mean?
- 2) Why did God create humans?
- 3) Which book of the Bible tells us the creation story?
- 4) Review last week’s memory verse, have them explain it in their own words.

INTRODUCTION:

- **How BIG is the universe God created? IT IS HUGE!** (*see attached fact sheet*)
- Did it just so happen that the earth is 93 million miles from the sun? Any farther away we would freeze to death, and any closer we would burn up!
- Did it just so happen that the atmosphere is a balance of 79% nitrogen and 20% oxygen and variant gasses, which is the perfect combination for us to breathe and stay alive?
- Did it just so happen that the earth has a layer of ozone protection from cosmic rays?
- Did it just so happen that the earth is 2/3rds water and 1/3 land mass so clouds form over the water and the wind blows them over to water the land, enabling us to eat, drink and survive?
- The universe is 15 billion light years big! If the universe is so big, why is God interested in us? Because he loves us and made us so that He might have a special relationship with us.

LESSON:

When we are born do we automatically have a relationship with God? No. Why not? Because of something that happened in the Garden of Eden. Call on one of the students to read **Genesis 2:15-17**. Why did God put the Tree of the Knowledge of good and evil in the garden? To find out if Adam and Eve really loved Him. It is one thing to *say* we love someone, but it's another thing to demonstrate our love by being obedient to the one we say we love.

For example, let's suppose that you love to play Xbox, and your friend Tommy has just gotten the latest Xbox game. Your mom needs to go to the store and she asks you to stay in the house until she returns in an hour. Ten Right after she leaves, Tommy shows up and invites you to come to his house which is just down the street to play his new Xbox game. You have been waiting to play this game, and there is nothing else in the world you would rather do right now than play that game! But you know that your mom said not to leave until she returns . . . but you still have forty-five minutes! Tommy quickly says: "*Hey, we can go now and we'll just play for half an hour and come back before she ever gets back home - she'll never even know!*" You are really tempted. All kinds of thoughts go racing through your mind... maybe your mom didn't really mean what she said. Maybe your mom wasn't being fair and just wanted to be mean. Finally you decide to obey your mom even though you REALLY want to play that game!

Forty minutes later your mom comes home. As she gets out of her car she notices your next-door neighbor watering the lawn and she asks: "*Edith, did my son stay in while I was gone?*" "*He sure did,*" Your neighbor replies. "*You should have seen his friend Tommy trying to get him to leave and go play his new game. I think he really wanted to go, but he was obedient.*" Any mom who hears a report like that is going to know that her child's love goes way deeper than just words!

Unfortunately, Adam and Eve chose to disobey God when they were tempted. Let's read what happened in **Genesis 3:1-6**. Have volunteers read a verse one at a time. (Suggestion boys-1, girls 2-3, boys 4, all-6) This is the first mention of Satan, and the students may have a lot of questions. Briefly explain Satan's own rebellion and pride, which caused him to be kicked out of heaven and explain that even to this day he wants to destroy God's creation and will lie to us just as he did to Adam and Eve.

Did you notice that Satan questions God's Word, lies about God and then lies about what will happen if God is disobeyed? Adam and Eve made the mistake of listening to the lies of the snake (Satan in disguise) and ate the fruit that God specifically told them not to eat. When Adam chose to disobey God he brought on himself and all of mankind sickness, suffering, and death. Sickness, suffering and death were not God's choice. When Adam sinned he was cut off from God's fellowship and had to live under the curse of his disobedience. But is that fair that we have to suffer? We didn't eat the fruit in the garden! Well, the Bible tells us that like Adam, all of us have sinned and are cut off from God. We all came from Adam and Eve and carry that "sin sickness" in our blood. We need a remedy, or a cure for the sin that we were born with! Without God, the One who made us and the One who truly can make us happy, our situation is truly desperate. But God had a plan to rescue us and bring back our fellowship with Himself. When Adam and Eve sinned, they changed and the spiritual covering was gone and they were ashamed. They tried to cover themselves with leaves, but that didn't work. Then God gave them clothes of animal skins. Where do you think that came from? Yes, God had to kill animals to cover their shame. God had a bigger plan to cover the sin of the whole world and next week we will find out what that plan is!

Allow time for questions, the students will have lots of comments (and coming from different religious backgrounds, they will have different interpretations of this creation story that they may want to share or ask questions. Be sensitive to how you respond, but always point back to the authority of Scripture and what the Bible tells us, and how other parts of the Bible give us more insight into what happened (i.e. the story of Satan being kicked out from heaven, etc...) Remind the kids again that **God loves them** and wants to have fellowship with us and a personal relationship with us. Close in prayer and spend a few minutes on the memory verse!

MEMORY VERSE:

(Even year):

"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 6:23 (NKJ & NIV)

(Odd year):

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23 (NKJ & NIV)