

FIRST SIN

Genesis 3:1-24

STRUCTURE

Key-persons: God, Adam, and Eve

Key-location: Garden of Eden, outside the Garden

Key-repetitions:

- Eat the fruit (Gen 3:1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 17, 22).
- Accusations: God accused Adam (Gen 3:11); Adam accused God and Eve (Gen 3:12); Eve accused the snake (Gen 3:13).
- Punishment: the snake's (Gen 3:14-15); the woman's (Gen 3:16); the man's (Gen 3:17-19).
- Pain: for the woman (Gen 3:16); for the man (Gen 3:17-19).
- Conflict: between snake and the woman (Gen 3:15); the snake's descendants and the woman's (Gen 3:15).
- God asked questions to those who did wrong: Adam (Gen 3:9, 11); Eve (Gen 3:13).

Key-attitudes:

- Snake's deception.
- Eve's skepticism in God's words.
- Adam and Eve's shame after eating the forbidden fruit.
- God's sadness when he declared punishment.

Initial-Situation:

In the beginning, God created with spoken words. Everything God made was good. God made man and woman similar to himself. God gave them responsibilities to take care of his creation and to rule over the animals. God made the Garden of Eden for Adam and Eve. He gave them freedom to enjoy fruit from all the trees in the garden except from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Adam and Eve were naked, but felt no shame.

Initial-problem:

The snake asked the woman: "Did God really say: 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

Final-situation:

The Lord God expelled the couple from the Garden of Eden and posted an angel-cherubim and a revolving sword of fire to prevent people from getting to the Tree of Life.

BIBLE STORY

Adam and Eve Disobey God

The snake was the most clever of all the wild animals the Lord God made. The snake asked the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat fruit from any tree in the garden'?"

The woman answered, "No, we may eat fruit from any tree, except the one that is in the middle of the garden. God said, 'You must never eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden; you must not even touch it, or you'll die.'"

The snake replied, "You'll not die. God knows that when you eat of it, your eyes will be opened to see what's really going on. You'll be just like God, knowing good and evil."

The woman saw that the tree was beautiful, and its fruit looked tasty. She realized what she would get out of it: she'd know everything. So she took and ate some of its fruit and she gave some to her husband, and he ate it. Then the man and woman had their eyes opened; they saw that they were naked! They sewed fig leaves together to make a covering for themselves (Gen 3:1-7).

Results of Disobedience

That evening, the man and his wife heard the Lord God strolling in the garden in the cool part of the day. They hid from the Lord God among the trees in the garden.

But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

The man answered, "I heard you in the garden. I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

God asked, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat fruit from the tree that I forbade you to eat from?"

The man replied, "The woman you put here with me gave me fruit from the tree; so I ate it."

The Lord God asked the woman, "What have you done?"

The woman replied, "The snake deceived me, and I ate the fruit."

The Lord God told the snake, "Because you did this, you're cursed to crawl on your belly and eat dust all your life. You and the woman will be enemies. The woman's descendant will strike you on your head, and you will strike his heel."

The Lord God told the woman, "I will cause you to have trouble and suffer pain when you are pregnant. Yet, you will desire your husband's affections, and he will rule over you."

The Lord God told the man, "You listened to your wife; you ate fruit from the tree which I forbade you to eat. Therefore, the ground is under a curse because of you. You will sweat in the fields to get food until you return to the ground. You started out as dirt. When you die, you will end up as dirt" (Gen 3:8-19).

Adam named his wife Eve (Gen 3:20).

The Lord God made leather clothing for Adam and Eve and dressed them. The Lord God expelled the couple from the Garden of Eden and posted an angel-cherubim and a revolving sword of fire to prevent people from getting to the Tree of Life (Gen 3:21-24).

GENERIC DIALOGUE QUESTIONS

1. What catches your attention in the story?
2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand?
3. Who are the main characters in the story?
4. What problems did the characters face?
5. How did the characters face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

SPECIFIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How did Adam and Eve disobey God?
2. How did the snake modify God's words?
3. What were the consequences of Adam and Eve disobeying God?
4. Who did Adam and Eve blame for their wrongdoing?
5. How did Adam and Eve try to cover up their wrongdoing?
6. Who do people today blame for their wrongdoings?
7. How do people today try to cover up their wrongdoings?
8. What are some of the consequences of our disobeying God?

LIFE-LESSONS

1. **People make wrong choices when they become convinced that sin is good for them.** Temptation makes people feel that sin is good, pleasant, and desirable. Eve felt that the forbidden fruit would be good, pleasant, and desirable (Gen 3:6).
2. **The person who modifies God's words is not prepared to resist Satan.** God told Adam not to eat of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil (Gen 2:16-17). Eve increased God's demands, saying that they were neither to eat nor touch the tree (Gen 3:3). Eve was not prepared to resist Satan, because she modified the word of God.
3. **The wrong doer usually involves others in his wrong doing.** After Eve sinned, she involved Adam in her disobeying God (Gen 3:6-7).
4. **Sin: so easy the act, so painful the consequences.** It was easy for Eve to take the forbidden fruit, eat it, and give it to Adam (Gen 3:6). However, the results of sin were painfully hard (Gen 3:16-19). Sin affected the woman as a mother and wife (Gen 3:16) and the man as a worker (Gen 3:17-19).
5. **Wrongdoers are responsible for their actions and cannot shift the blame to other people or circumstances.** Adam shifted the blame both to God and to Eve for his action (Gen 3:12), but God blamed Adam for listening to his wife and eating the forbidden fruit (Gen 3:17). The woman tried to shift the blame to the snake (Gen 3:13), but God punished the woman for her disobedience (Gen 3:16).

6. **God's action on behalf of the sinner is the only hope people have for liberation from sin's consequences.** God promised that one of Eve's descendants would crush the snake's head, while the snake would strike his heel (Gen 3:15). This is the first promise referring to the coming of Jesus. Adam and Eve couldn't hide their shame with clothes made from leaves (Gen 3:7); God provided them with leather garments (Gen 3:21).

LEARNING ACTIVITY

Role-playing Drama:

Invite a man and a woman to dramatize Adam and Eve immediately after being driven from the garden. They are arguing; Adam blames Eve while Eve defends herself and blames Adam.