

Sin Enters God's World

Unit 1 | Week 3

Bible Point:

God always loves us...even when we want to be in charge.

Purpose

Let's face it—sin gets the best of all of us. We want to be in charge of our own lives. The core of our sinful condition is selfishness—choosing our way instead of God's way. Today we are going to learn about what it means to lean on God and to trust that God always has our back. And to be comforted by knowing that even when we mess up or sin—and we all do—our loving God will still care for us. Will still love us. Will *always* love you!

Opening Options

How to start Options: Choose one or both to introduce today's Bible discoveries.

Build a Lego building. Then invite a friend to knock it down.

[?] What was it like when you watched your Lego building being destroyed?

God created a perfect world for the people he made and loved. Then they disobeyed God, and sin upset his plan for people. But God still cared for them, just like he cares for us. [POINT] God always loves us.

Paper Hearts

[?] Who's someone who loves you no matter what?

Draw a big heart and decorate it. Cut it out, then fold it in half like a card. Write something nice inside to give to someone you love.

You'll give your card to someone you love. God loved the people he made and gave them a beautiful garden to live in. Even so, they disobeyed God. God still cared about them, though, because [POINT] God always loves us.

It's time to learn another fascinating fact about giraffes! Are you ready for today's This-or-That Challenge? You'll hear two fun facts about giraffes. Then pick which one you think is true—this fact or that!

- [?] How big is a giraffe's heart—is it 6 inches long (demonstrate 6 inches with your hands) or 2 feet long (demonstrate)?
- Dramatically give the answer: It's 2 feet!

Show Savanna Bible Memory Buddy video (Week 3).

In the Beginning

Genesis 1:26–2:4

"And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is." (Ephesians 3:18)



Supplies:

- Legos
- construction paper
- crayons

Show the Bible. The Bible is God's true story of love! Even though God inspired people to write the Bible a long time ago, it still matters in our lives today. Our Bible Memory Verse comes from Ephesians 3:18. Let's say the verse together. I'll say a line, and then you repeat after me.

“And may you have the power *(make muscles with arms)*
to understand, *(point to head)*
as all God's people should, *(sweep hands in front of you)*
how wide, *(spread arms wide)*
how long, *(move arm in front like tracing a long line)*
how high, *(stretch up with hand above head)*
and how deep *(crouch down)*
(God's) love is.” *(hug yourself)*
(Ephesians 3:18)



“One Thing Remains (Your Love Never Fails)” music video

Experience the Bible Story

Read aloud Genesis 3:1-24 from any children's Bible. The following is another way to tell the story.

In today's Bible story, we'll travel back to a beautiful place. In fact, it was a *perfect* place. Well, this perfect place was the garden of Eden. It was filled with wonderful fruit trees and amazing animals. Best of all, the first two people God created lived there. The man was named Adam. The woman was named Eve.

Every morning when Adam and Eve woke up, beautiful things greeted them. God allowed Adam and Eve to eat from any of the trees—except for one. They *weren't* allowed to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Now the snake was the shrewdest of all the wild animals God had made. That means it was smart and clever...but also tricky! One day the snake came slithering up to Eve and whispered in her ear. Let's read their conversation. Read aloud in a whisper Genesis 3:1-3.

Apply-It Options

Supplies: Sheets of aluminum foil

God created a beautiful garden for Adam and Eve. It was perfect!

- Look at your reflection on the shiny side of a piece of foil. You can see yourself clearly!
- Now crinkle the foil into a loose wad.
- Flatten out the foil as best you can.
- Now look at your reflection.
- No matter how you turn the foil, you won't be able to see your reflection. It's gone!

When Adam and Eve decided to choose their own way, they brought sin into every human's life. The perfect world was perfect no more!

Even when we choose our way instead of God's way, God still loves us. [POINT] He *always* loves us! In fact, he loves us so much he sent Jesus to beat sin and death once and for all.

There's simply nothing we can do on our own to get rid of the sin in our lives. But love makes all the difference. God loves us so much that he sent his only Son, Jesus, to take away our sin.

Jesus loves us so much that he died on **a cross and made a way for us to be forgiven and live with him forever in heaven.**

Now close your eyes and listen as I read to you about our friend Jesus.

"You won't die!" hissed the snake.

Read aloud Genesis 3:4-5.

"Hmm," thought Eve, looking at the tree. "That fruit *does* look yummy." Let's move a little closer. No, no! We should do what God says. "Ooh! But I bet the fruit's delicious. And I *am* hungry." No, no, no. It's not about what we want—it's what *God* wants.. Eve took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to Adam, and *he* ate it. Oh no! Suddenly they felt shame.

Later they heard God coming. Now what? So they hid from God among the trees. Of course, you can't really hide from God, right? God found them. Let's find out what he said.

Read aloud Genesis 3:9-11.

Adam said, "It was Eve who gave me the fruit!". Eve said, "The snake tricked me! It's the snake's fault!"

God was totally in charge of what happened next. God told the snake that it would have to crawl on its belly in the dust from then on. Then God told Adam and Eve that they'd have to leave the beautiful and perfect garden he'd made for them.

Adam and Eve's actions must have broken God's heart. Although God could have unfriended Adam and Eve, he still loved them. So he made clothes for them out of animal skins. And he still watched over them, even though they had to leave the perfect garden.

[POINT] God always loves us. (*Wow, God!*) He loves us even when we choose our way over God's way and what he wants for us. That's why he sent Jesus. Jesus never sinned. God sent him to earth to die on the cross and forgive us so we don't have to carry our sin around anymore. We can be close to God again.

Take-It-Home Flyer (Unit 1, Week 3)

Jesus always has our back. That means he's a friend we can lean and depend on. As you listen to me read, let's sit back to back. Close your eyes and listen as I read to you about our friend Jesus.

Read the first section of Unit 1, Week 3 Take-It-Home-Flyer.

Prayer

God, thank you for always loving us, even when we want to be in charge and we choose our way instead of yours. We love you, too. Amen.

