



LESSON 2
THE FALL

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Never Gives Up on Us

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 3

GOD'S BIG STORY: Adam and Eve disobey God, believing the serpent's lie over God's truth. Still, God calls to them, cares for them, and promises that one of their descendants will someday defeat Satan once and for all.

WORD OF WONDER: Jesus makes us new. —from 2 Corinthians 5:17

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Happy Day, My God
- God's Big Story: The Fall
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing





INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

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WONDER TRUTH: God Never Gives Up on Us

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 3

WORD OF WONDER: From 2 Corinthians 5:17

Have you ever seen a toddler throw a tantrum? After a long day of fun at a theme park, my three-year-old fell apart because I would not buy her another sweet treat. I tried to explain to her that it wasn't good for her, but she screamed and refused to accept not getting her way. So I took her to a nearby bathroom to take a time-out, to allow her to calm down. She sat on that disgusting floor and threw the biggest tantrum. Although it felt like the longest three minutes of my life, she eventually calmed down and apologized. She was ready to trust and believe that I wanted only the best for her.

As we read the story of the fall of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3, I wonder why the enemy didn't directly command Eve just to go and eat the fruit. Did you catch his brilliant tactic? What lies has the enemy told you about God? Do you truly believe that God will take care of you as He promised?

One of the toughest realities of the Christian walk is the fact that we have all fallen. And one of the most joyous realities is that the Father—our perfect parent—doesn't give up on us. He will pursue us patiently until we surrender, soften our hearts, and believe God can be trusted.

—Catherine Hwang-Jin

Children's Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

It was the serpent who encouraged Adam and Eve's fall into sin. This is the first time we see God's enemy disguised as one of God's good creatures, encouraging people to disobey. Revelation talks about the coming defeat of Satan, "that ancient serpent" (Revelation 20:2 NIV).

WHAT?

Sin changed everything in God's good world. Adam and Eve turned away from God and disobeyed His command. From then on, all of us do the same. We choose to follow our own way, and it breaks our relationship with God and separates us from Him.

WHERE?

Adam and Eve lived in the garden of Eden, located somewhere in southern Iraq. After the fall, Adam and Eve were forced to leave the garden and can never return. Eden has never been found—the Bible says the entrance is guarded (Genesis 3:24).

WHEN?

We don't know the exact date this took place, but this first sin changed everything in God's good world. From the first people until now, humanity has been in rebellion against God and His way. This happened long ago, but it continues to affect us today.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY:

God gives consequences for sin in Genesis 3. But God also makes a promise—a snake crusher will reverse the curse of sin (Genesis 3:15). As we read God's big story, we're on the lookout for the One who will make everything right—Jesus!

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

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Welcome

Slide: Series Welcome Loop

As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

SUPPLIES: fresh herbs (optional)

Leader: Remember our friend, Tac? He's so curious. Here he comes now!

Tac the Cat: Hi, kids! I'm curious about something ... It's a place where we can get food.

Leader: The grocery store?

Tac the Cat: No, it's outside.

Leader: Oh, a farm!

Tac the Cat: Not that either ... It's something some people have in their yards, where they grow things like lowers and tomatoes.

Leader: Oh—a garden!

Tac the Cat: Yes, I'm curious about a garden! Kids, have you ever seen a garden? (Allow the kids to respond.) Have you ever grown a garden? They always look different. Sometimes there are tall plants and sometimes little plants, sometimes you can eat what's in there, but sometimes you can't. I saw an herb garden the other day, and it got me curious ... how do people know which plants can be picked and eaten and which ones can't?

Leader: I love to garden—and that's very true, it can get confusing which plants can be eaten, like herbs, and which ones cannot, like most flowers. It's important to know what you're planting in a garden

so you know whether or not you can eat it, but also how to take care of it!
(If you have fresh herbs, hold them up and show the kids.)

Tac the Cat: I would grow some catnip in a garden and eat it all up! Kids, what fruits, vegetables, or herbs would you like to grow in a garden? Or maybe just lowers? (Allow the kids to respond.)

Leader: There's a garden in the Bible that God created. In that garden were trees that grew delicious fruit, but there was one tree no one was supposed to eat from. We're going to learn about it today!

Tac the Cat: What happened? I'm curious!

Leader: We'll find out when we hear about God's big story today!

Tac the Cat: That sounds great! Well, I've got more exploring and thinking to do! I think I'm going to go plant some things in a garden and watch it grow.

Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: Are there any plants that you're curious about? Allow the kids to respond. **Are there any foods you've never eaten that you're curious about?** Allow the kids to respond. **There is so much in the world we don't know about, but God knows everything. He knows when we do wrong things too, and He loves us! Did you ever stop to think about how God created us and loves us?**

Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD NEVER GIVES UP ON US**. Today, we'll discover that God won't ever give up on us.

Declaring God's Wonder

Show the Early Childhood Declaration Slide and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up and then to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from above, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

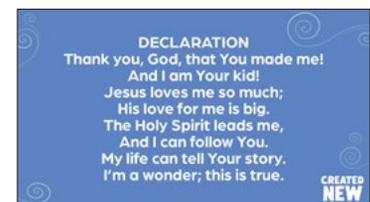
March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shake your fingers, and celebrate ("praise hands").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for meeting us here. Show us the truth of Your Word. Help us trust You more and understand Your love for us even better after today's part of Your big story. Thank You for never giving up on us! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Today we'll learn about how faithful God is and how He is never going to give up on us. Let's sing about our loving God together!

Play songs Happy Day, My God and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story: The Fall

SUPPLIES: Bible

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible, and what do I see? *(Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)*

God's big story, waiting for me! *(Point to yourself.)*

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found in Genesis, which is the first book of the Bible.

Watch the God's Big Story video.

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

You can help tell today's story by acting out different parts of the story as I call them out.

In the beginning, God created everything. The Bible tells us how God made the world and all the things in it. God made planets and stars, plants and animals. Then God made humans. He made them in His own image. **Point to yourself.** Pause to allow kids to respond. That means that people show what God is like. God told the first people to take care of the world. God took care of them too. He wants to be close with His people.

The first two people were Adam and Eve. **Hold up two fingers.** Pause to allow kids to respond. God gave them everything they needed. He gave them a garden to live in. God told them to take care of it. He told them to fill the earth with more people. Adam and Eve could eat any fruit in the garden except for the fruit from one tree. **Shake your finger like "no, no."** Pause to allow kids to respond. It was the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God told them if they ate the fruit from that tree, they would die.

There was a very sneaky serpent (or snake) in the garden. Can you make a "sssssss" sound like a sneaky snake? Pause to allow kids to respond. A very sneaky serpent asked Eve why they couldn't eat the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge. Eve told the serpent what God said. The serpent told her, "You will not die! God knows that you'll be just like Him if you eat its fruit." Eve saw that the fruit looked really good. She took some and ate it. She shared the fruit with Adam who was with her. Adam ate it too. **Make a sad face.** Pause to allow kids to respond. Satan used the serpent to trick Adam and Eve. Satan is the enemy of God and wants God's people to disobey Him.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God. They did the one thing God told them not to do. Disobeying God is called sin. Adam and Eve's sin hurt their relationship with God. **Make a thumbs-down.** Pause to allow kids to respond. They realized they did the wrong thing. They were afraid and felt bad for what they did. Adam and Eve noticed they did not have clothes on, so they made clothes out of leaves.

Later, they heard God walking in the garden. Adam and Eve tried to hide from Him. **Hide your face behind your hands.** Pause to allow kids to respond. God called out to them. Adam told God that they heard Him walking and that they were scared. Adam told God that the woman made him eat the fruit. Eve told God that the serpent tricked her and made her eat the fruit.

The sin made more bad things happen for Adam and Eve and the whole world. Sin always messes things up. Sin messed up God's relationship with people and made life harder for everyone. Adam and Eve had to leave the garden. **Walk in place like you're leaving.** Pause to allow kids to respond. They could never go back.

But God did not give up on Adam and Eve. God still took care of them. God gave Adam and Eve better clothes. And God started His plan to fix the relationship with His people. One day God will beat Satan once and for all. **Pump your hands in the air for victory!** Pause to allow kids to respond.

People still disobey God. We all sin, and it hurts God and us. But God still loves us. He made the way through Jesus to beat evil and be close with Him. God never gives up on us. **Clap and cheer for God!** Pause to allow kids to respond.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to help kids connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

Our Wonder Truth today is GOD NEVER GIVES UP ON US. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

God says that because of sin, things will be hard (Genesis 3). But God also makes a promise—one day a snake crusher will reverse the curse of sin (Genesis 3:15). As we read God's big story, we're on the lookout for the One who will make everything right—that's Jesus!

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids are finished with this breath prayer, pray with the kids, thanking God for never giving up.

As we pray, put your hands over your heart every time I say, "Thank You." Let's pray to God. God, thank You (hands over your heart) **for never giving up on us. Thank You (hands over your heart) for loving us and caring for us, even when we mess up. We love You so much! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: God knows us deeply and will always be here for us. May you always remember that He will never give up on you, no matter what. Forever and ever, God will be faithful to you and forgive you when you need it. God loves you so much!