

God Gives Adam and Eve a Choice

Genesis 3

2

Lesson



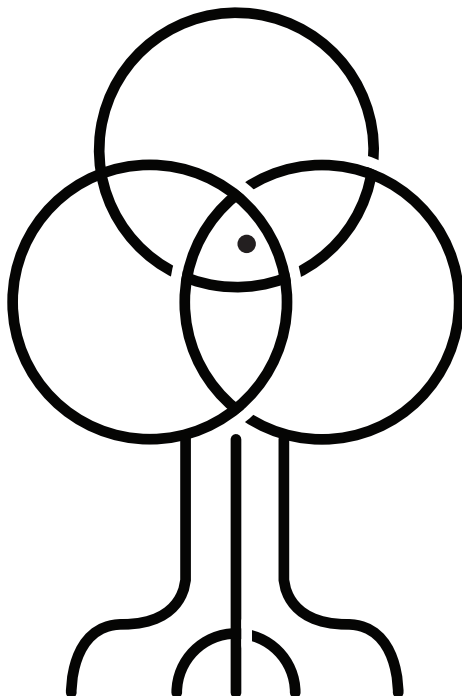
Teacher Background

What Happens: Adam and Eve are in paradise—the Garden of Eden. There's one tree they aren't allowed to eat from. But a serpent tells Eve she can be like God if she eats fruit from that tree. Eve makes the choice to disobey God, and then Adam does, too. Then they're punished and kicked out of the garden. God lets us choose between good and evil, just as he let Adam and Eve make their choice.

Why It Matters: Kids are faced with choices every day. Use this lesson to help them distinguish between good and evil choices and to recognize that wrong choices have consequences.

Think About: Think about a tough choice you had to make. How did God help you see what the right decision was?

Pray for God to help your kids choose good over evil.



Point

God lets us choose between good and evil.



Key Verse

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

Genesis 1:1

QUICK TIP

While some choices are between right and wrong, others are just between two fun options. Let your kids practice making choices by incorporating options into your teaching time. For example, kids can choose whether to sit in chairs or on the floor, who to partner with, or even which activity to do next. Your flexibility will enable kids to practice making choices.

This Lesson at a Glance



WHAT HAPPENS	KIDS DISCOVER	EASY SUPPLIES
SET THE STAGE Share about a topic related to the lesson.	The connection between their world and the Bible.	
EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE Touch any color except blue, and then break apart when they touch blue.	How bad choices separate us from God and each other.	☐ Bible
HANDS-ON DISCOVERY Tear and tape paper hearts	How Jesus repairs our broken friendship with God.	☐ Bible ☐ paper ☐ crayons ☐ scissors ☐ transparent tape (1 roll for every 3 kids)
PLAY A GAME Roll balls into squares, trying to avoid the bad squares.	How to be intentional with making good choices.	☐ masking tape ☐ paper wads (2 per child) ☐ upbeat music (optional) ☐ music player (optional)
PRAY TOGETHER Learn a prayer of confession and squeeze and release their grip to experience God's freedom and forgiveness.	They can admit to God they've messed up and he'll forgive them.	

SET THE STAGE (5 MINUTES)



SAY: Today we're going to learn

God lets us choose between good and evil. Let's think about people who make good and bad choices.

ASK: Tell about the good guys and bad guys in your favorite movie. Share your own quick story first, and then let everyone share!

SAY: It's easy to see good and evil choices in a movie. But we make good or bad choices a lot, too! Let's see what the Bible says about a choice two people made—and what happened because of their choice. One way God talks to us is through the Bible—his special book. God is here right now, ready to talk to you.



EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE (10 MINUTES)



SUPPLIES

- Bible

DISCUSS



Open your Bible to Genesis 3, and show kids the words.

SAY: Today we're going to learn about a time some people in the Bible made a bad choice and got in trouble.

ASK: Tell about something you did that you got in trouble for. Share your own quick story first, and then let everyone share!

SAY: We all do wrong things sometimes. When God made the world, he made it perfect! God made Adam and Eve, and at first, they were in perfect relationship with God and each other. Let's link arms to show that.

Lead everyone (including leaders) in linking arms.

SAY: Adam and Eve lived in a beautiful place called the Garden of Eden. They walked and talked with each other—and with God! That must have been so wonderful! Imagine if no one ever said or did anything mean to you. Imagine if you never did bad things that you later felt bad about. Everything was perfect.

DON'T TOUCH BLUE

SAY: God could have made Adam and Eve like robots who had no choice but to do the right thing. But he didn't. ➡ God lets us choose between good and evil. And God had one rule for Adam and Eve.

The Garden of Eden was full of trees with delicious fruit! There was just one tree they weren't allowed to eat from.

Let's try something. Find something you can touch with one hand—maybe the floor, your shoe, or someone's sleeve. You can touch any color you want—except blue. You can briefly unlink to touch something, but then link right back up.

Allow time. If your space is mostly blue, feel free to choose a different color.

ASK: Call out how you felt trying to avoid touching blue.

SAY: There were a lot of things you could touch that weren't blue! And there was a lot of delicious fruit that was wonderful to eat. Let's see if Adam and Eve could stick to only the good fruit.



Read Genesis 3:1-3.

SAY: Oh no! The serpent tried to trick Eve by making it sound like God's rule was that she couldn't eat any fruit. Eve didn't fall for that trick.

But then the serpent told Eve that if she ate the fruit, she would be like God. Would she fall for that trick? Let's find out.



Read Genesis 3:6.

TOUCH BLUE

SAY: Oh no! Eve ate the fruit—and so did Adam! ➡ **God lets us choose between good and evil.** They made the evil choice. Touch something blue to show how they disobeyed. Unlink if you need to. Pause.

Now let's see what happened because of that choice.

First, they heard God coming, so they hid. Their perfect relationship with God was broken! Unlink from one person you're linked to. Pause.

Then, when God asked about it, Adam blamed Eve. Their perfect relationship with each other was broken, too. Unlink from everyone and scoot apart. Pause.

And they felt ashamed. Cover your face. Pause.

➡ **God lets us choose between good and evil.** But sometimes there are consequences when we choose the wrong thing. Everyone got in trouble.

The serpent was cursed to crawl on his belly. Wriggle on the ground like a snake. Pause.

Eve was cursed so that it would hurt to be pregnant and have babies. Hold your bellies like they hurt. Pause.

And Adam was cursed to have thorns that made it harder to grow food. Poke yourself with a fingernail. Pause.

Plus, God made Adam and Eve leave the wonderful Garden he had made, the Garden of Eden. Turn around and face away from everyone. Pause.

➡ **God lets us choose between good and evil.** Wrong choices hurt others and separate us from each other. But when we ask God for help, he can help us make good choices. And when we do make bad choices, he forgives us because of his Son, Jesus.





EXPLORE GENESIS 3

SAY: In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve walked and talked with God. They spent time together there, like close, good friends.

ASK: Where are some places you and your friends hang out together?

ASK: What do you do there?

SAY: After Adam and Eve disobeyed God, there were some pretty big consequences. The worst consequence was that God sent Adam and Eve out of the Garden...forever!



Read Genesis 3:23-24.

SAY: And they weren't just shut out of the Garden. It changed the relationship between God and people. Let's try something to see what that was like.

TEAR PAPER HEARTS

Hand each person a piece of paper. Have older kids each cut out a heart, and younger kids each can draw one. It's okay if it doesn't really look like a heart. And, if it's too hard for younger kids to draw hearts, they can just tear a blank paper.

SAY: Let's imagine this is our friendship with God. Before Adam and Eve sinned, it was a perfect, loving friendship. But Eve disobeyed. If you've ever disobeyed *anyone*, tear your paper. Tear your paper heart.

Adam made a bad choice, too. He did something he knew wouldn't please God. We all do. Tear your paper again. Tear your paper heart.

Think of something else that hurts your friendship with God. Things like lies (tear the paper) or unkindness (tear the paper). Each time you think of something that hurts our friendship with God, tear the paper.

Pause while kids tear, for about 15 seconds.

ASK: What words describe your paper now?

ASK: What do you have with you that can fix the paper and make it look like a heart again?

SAY: We have nothing that can fix our broken friendship. But God did. God wanted that close, good friendship back. So many, many years after Adam and Eve lived, God sent his very own Son, Jesus. Jesus lived on the earth to show people what God's love was like. Most important, Jesus died to take the punishment for all these torn, broken choices we make. ➡ **God lets us choose between good and evil.** And when we make a bad choice, Jesus is there to forgive us and help fix that friendship.

Hand out tape, and let groups of three kids share a roll. Kids can work together to tape their torn hearts back together.

SUPPLIES

- Bible
- paper
- crayons
- scissors
- transparent tape
(1 roll for every 3 kids)

QUICK TIP

Keep the tape out of sight so kids won't know it's available to fix their hearts.



ASK: How would you describe your paper hearts now?

SAY: The hearts aren't perfect. ➡ **God lets us choose between good and evil**, and there are still consequences when we make bad choices. But Jesus—God's Son—came to restore our relationship with God. And one day, we can be made totally new when we live forever in heaven with Jesus. It will be like the Garden of Eden...but better!

Kids can keep their torn hearts as reminders to ask for Jesus' forgiveness when they make bad choices.



PLAY A GAME (10 MINUTES)



ROLL FOR POINTS

SAY: Today we heard how God told Adam and Eve they could eat from any tree in the garden except one, and they chose to eat from that tree. Because of Adam and Eve's bad choice, they were separated from God. Let's play a game as we think more about the effects of one bad choice.

- Have kids form a single-file about 6 feet away from the squares.
- Give each child two paper wads to roll or toss onto the squares.

SAY: The goal is to get as many paper wads as possible into the first square. That's worth 10 points per paper wad! The middle square is worth nothing, and if you land in the third square, you lose *all* the paper wads you've gotten in the first square so far! Can you make a good choice as you aim?

- Once kids understand the rules, begin playing the game. If anyone lands in the third square, remove all the paper wads from the first square.
- If you'd like, play music as kids play.
- After each child has had two turns, count up the points in the first square.
- Play more rounds as time allows, challenging kids to try to beat their score.

SUPPLIES

- masking tape
- paper wads (2 per child)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

EASY PREP

- On each side of your meeting area, make 3 masking-tape squares (approximately 1 square foot each) side by side, as shown below.

10 pts	0 pts	- pts
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TALK ABOUT IT

ASK: What was it like to lose all your points when you landed in the bad square?

ASK: How are the effects of the one bad apple in this game like the effects of Adam and Eve's one bad choice in real life?

SAY: One bad toss in this game took away all your points. In the same way, Adam and Eve's one bad choice meant they were forced to leave the Garden of Eden forever. Adam and Eve's choice also meant that we *all* are separated from God by our sin. **God lets us choose between good and evil**, but our evil choices have consequences. Thankfully, God also lets us choose to be forgiven by believing in Jesus.



PRAY TOGETHER (5 MINUTES)



SAY: Today we're learning that God lets us choose between good and evil.

When we pray, we talk with God. We can talk with God about anything—even our wrong choices. That's what a prayer of confession is all about.

To "confess" means to admit we've messed up. Let's pray a prayer of confession now. As I pray, let's all squeeze our fists really tightly, like we're holding on to our wrong choices.

Demonstrate, cautioning kids not to squeeze too hard.

Now let's close our eyes and talk with God.

PRAY: Dear God, we confess that we've disobeyed you. We've thought mean thoughts and said unkind words. We've done things to hurt people. And we haven't done things to help people. We haven't loved you very well, God. We are so sorry. Please forgive us and help us choose your good way.

Have kids take a deep breath and then let it out as they open their palms to receive God's forgiveness.

PRAY: Thank you, God. Your forgiveness makes our hearts happy. Amen.

ASK: How did you feel when you opened your grip?

ASK: How is that like or unlike talking with God about our bad choices?

SAY: When we confess our sin, God faithfully forgives us and helps us (1 John 1:9). And that feels good! ➡ **God lets us choose between good and evil**. And no matter what, we can talk with God about our choices.