

PPT Title

The Fall of Man

Main Point: Everyone has sinned and is separated from God.

PPT Verse

Key Verse: *Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God's glory.* - Romans 3: 23

Props: Fresh large leaves; Dried out leaves

REVIEW

Say: Two weeks ago, we learned about God's creation of the earth and everything in it. Last week, we learned about the angel, Lucifer. Lucifer was created by God. He was beautiful and powerful, and had a special job. Because of his beauty and splendor, Lucifer became proud. He wanted more than God had given him. He wanted to become like God. As far as we know, Lucifer's pride was the first sin ever committed. Pride is a very serious sin. All sin separates us from God. God cast Lucifer out of heaven, down to earth. When Lucifer left heaven, he took one-third of all the angels with him. Lucifer is no longer known as Lucifer, but as *Satan* which means enemy, or *the devil* which means liar. Satan roams the earth, looking for ways to destroy God's plans. But one day, Satan and his angels will receive eternal punishment when they are thrown into the lake of fire.

THE GARDEN OF EDEN (Genesis 2:4-25)

After God created the man, God named him Adam. God placed Adam in a special garden and it was Adam's job to take care of it.

The Lord God had planted a garden in the east. It was in Eden. There He put the man He had formed. The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground. Their fruit was pleasing to look at and good to eat. - Genesis 2:8

The Bible tells us that there had never been rain. Water rose up from a river to water the garden (Genesis 2:6, 10). The Garden of Eden was a beautiful place, full of good things and good food to eat.

Note to Teacher: According to the rivers mentioned in Genesis 2: 10-14, Eden is thought to have been located in or near Mesopotamia, but the exact location cannot be found today, because the flood in Genesis 6 - 9 changed the world's topography.

There were many trees in the garden. In the middle of the garden, there were two trees. One was the tree of life, which gave life forever. The other was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which gave the ability to tell the difference between good and evil.

The Lord God gave the man a command. Teacher: If age appropriate, tell the kids to cup their hands behind their ears to listen, because God's command is SO important. He said, "You can eat the fruit of any tree that is in the garden. But you must not eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you do, you can be sure that you will die." - Genesis 2:16

God also gave Adam the job of naming all the wild animals and birds. Can you imagine naming ALL the animals in the entire world? Adam named the frogs and the leopards, the snails and the vultures. Ask: What do you think is the strangest name Adam came up with? *Aardvark, sloth, orangutan, hippopotamus.* Say: Adam was very creative to come up with all those names.

The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him." Then the Lord God made a woman. He made her from the rib He had taken out of the man. And He brought her to him. - Genesis 2: 18, 22

The man and the woman, Adam and Eve, were husband and wife. They lived together in the beautiful garden, and everything was very good. They were both naked, and they felt no shame, or embarrassment (Genesis 2:25). God spent time with Adam and Eve in the lush garden that He had provided for them (Genesis 3:8). All their needs were taken care of, and they even had the pleasure of spending time with their Creator. Ask: Who listened and can remember the command that God gave to Adam? "*You must not eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you do, you can be sure that you will die.*"

PPT Verse

Application: We have learned that God always existed; He is all-powerful, all-knowing, holy, and good. Today we will learn another quality of God. God is truth (Psalm 31:5, John 14:6, 15:26). This is not something that God works at, or tries to do. It is who He is. God ALWAYS speaks the truth (Isaiah 45:19). God said that if Adam ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he would die. Ask: Was this true? *Of course it was true!* Say: Because God said it, it cannot be a lie.

BELIEVING A LIE (Genesis 3: 1-6)

Say: The verses we are about to read are some of the most well known in the whole Bible. Almost everyone has heard this story. Even people who never read the Bible know about it. When a story is this famous, sometimes we hear versions of it that are not accurate, or true. We must listen with fresh ears, to hear only the truth that is actually in the Bible. If you have your Bible, open it to Genesis, chapter 3, verse 1.

The serpent was more clever than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. The serpent said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat the fruit of any tree that is in the garden?'"

The woman said to the serpent, "We can eat the fruit of the trees that are in the garden. But God did say, 'You must not eat the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden. Do not even touch it. If you do, you will die.'"

"You can be sure that you won't die," the serpent said to the woman. "God knows that when you eat the fruit of that tree, you will know things you have never known before. You will be able to tell the difference between good and evil. You will be like God." - Genesis 3: 1-5

A serpent approached Eve in the garden. We are told in another place in the Bible that this serpent was actually the devil (Revelation 12:9). Remember that the name "devil" means liar or deceiver. At times, he takes the form of other creatures so he can fool people (2 Corinthians 11:14). Nowhere in the Bible does the devil appear as he is shown in movies or cartoons - wearing red and carrying a pitchfork. Satan came in the form of one of God's creatures so Eve would not know who he really was. At that time, everything in the garden was very good. The people and the animals were friends.

Notice that Satan knew all about the tree that God had forbidden Adam to eat from. Satan knew the truth, but he was determined to twist the truth to trap Adam and Eve.

Satan began by casting doubt about God in Eve's mind. He said, "Did God *really* say not to eat any fruit in the garden?" Since Satan cannot read peoples' thoughts, this may also have been his way of finding out exactly how much Eve knew about God's command.

Note to teacher: There is no instance in the Bible of Satan reading man's thoughts. Neither is he omni-present like God. However, he is very powerful and has a multitude of demons collecting information. Having observed man since the creation of the world, he is certainly very good at guessing what we are thinking. (See 2 Corinthians 2: 11.)

Eve's reply showed that she did not know God's command perfectly. She told the serpent that God said not to eat the fruit from the forbidden tree, *and not to touch it*, or they would die. God did not mention touching it.

PPT

God: "You can be sure that you will die."

Serpent: "You can be sure that you won't die."

Then Satan LIED completely. He told Eve they would NOT die if they ate the fruit. This was the direct opposite of what God said. **Read from Power point slide.** Satan continued in his deception by casting doubt on God's character. He said, "God knows that when you eat the fruit of that tree, you will know things you have never known before." By this statement, Satan was accusing God of trying to keep something good from Adam and Eve. It was as if Satan was saying, "God doesn't want you to have the best in life. He is keeping good things to Himself." This was not true! God is perfect, holy, and good. He didn't want to withhold something *good* from Adam and Eve. He wanted to protect them from something *bad*. And finally, Satan tempted Eve by saying that if she ate the fruit, she would become like God. Remember, this was the pride-sin of Satan, himself, which caused him to be thrown out of heaven.

It all boiled down to this. God said they would die, and Satan said they would not. Who would Eve believe? Who would Eve trust?

The woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good to eat. It was also pleasing to look at. And it would make a person wise. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her. And he ate it. - Genesis 3:6

Sadly, Eve chose to believe the lie instead of the Truth. Adam was with Eve and he also chose to believe Satan and eat the fruit. Though Adam and Eve had spent time with their Creator, and knew His goodness first hand, they believed Satan's accusation that God was withholding something good from them. They believed that God did not have their best interest at heart. This was the first sin of man. Up until that point, everything on earth had been very good.

Application: Above all things, we must believe in God. Our belief in Him is incredibly important to God (Genesis 15:6). God only wants what is best for you (Romans 8:28). If we know that He is perfect, holy, and good, we will trust Him. And when we truly trust Him, we will not fall for the lies of Satan and those who carry his message. God has given us this promise: "*I will bless any man who trusts in Me. I will show My favor to the one who depends on Me.*" (Jeremiah 17:7) Will you believe God?

PPT Verse

CONSEQUENCES (Genesis 3:7-24)

Say: Now we will look at the terrible results of Adam and Eve's choice. Suddenly, Adam and Eve knew something they had not known before - the feeling of guilt. They realized they were naked and they tried to cover themselves with leaves from a fig tree. **Show some fresh leaves to the kids.** Then Adam and Eve heard God walking in the garden. Because they were ashamed, they hid from God. God called out to Adam. Adam admitted to God that he was hiding because he was naked. God asked Adam how he knew he was naked, and if he had eaten fruit from the forbidden tree. Of course, God already knew the answer. He was asking just to hear Adam's answer. This is similar to a father asking his young son where all the chocolate chip cookies went, while the 3

boy is standing next to the cookie jar with cookie crumbs on his face.

(Adam) said, "It was the woman You put here with me. She gave me some fruit from the tree. And I ate it." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What have you done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me. That's why I ate the fruit." - Genesis 3: 12-13

Adam blamed Eve, and he even blamed God for creating Eve. Eve blamed the serpent. It is true that the serpent was evil and tricky, but that is no excuse. God promises that He always helps those who are tempted (1 Corinthians 10:13b). It is clear that both *Eve and Adam chose to believe Satan*. They chose the things Satan offered over what God had commanded.

God declared a punishment on the serpent, on Adam, and on Eve. The punishment of Adam and Eve would be passed down to all men and women. God cursed the serpent by making it crawl on the ground for the rest of its life. God also said that there would be hatred between the serpent (the devil) and mankind. God promised that one day, a man who was one of Eve's offspring would crush the head of the devil, though the devil would strike the heel of that man.

For Eve, God said that she would have a great amount of pain when she gave birth to her children. He also said that her husband would rule over her. For Adam, God said he would have to work very hard all the days of his life to have food to eat. God said that from that time on, weeds and thorns would grow up from the ground. Adam would have to sweat just to provide food for him and his family.

Then God said, "*You were made out of the ground. And you will return to it. You are dust. So you will return to it.*" (Genesis 3:19b) For it was true that Adam and Eve would one day die - just as God had said.

Remember the fig leaves that Adam and Eve used to cover their nakedness? **Hold up the leaves that have dried out and crumble them in your hand.** Man's way of covering his sin was not good enough. Only God could provide a lasting covering for them. "*The Lord God made clothes out of animal skins for Adam and his wife to wear.*" (Genesis 3:21) In order to cover the shame of their sin, God killed an animal, and this was the first death ever on the earth.

Ask: Who remembers what the other tree in the middle of the garden was called? *The Tree of Life*. Before Adam and Eve sinned, they could have eaten from this tree. But because of their disobedience, they were no longer allowed to eat its fruit. God sent Adam and Eve out of the garden so they could not eat from the Tree of Life. God placed cherubim, or angels, and a flaming sword at the entrance of the garden to guard it. Adam and Eve were sent out into the world - guilty and separated from God.

Application: How does this story affect each of us? This story affects each of us deeply. Man's sin changed everything. The earth was no longer completely good. Death had entered. Even the ground had changed. Ever since Adam and Eve chose to sin, every person who has ever lived has sinned (Romans 5:12). Because God is holy and there is no sin in Him, our sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:2). As we saw with Adam and Eve's banishment from the Tree of Life, sin always leads to death (Romans 6:23). This is a very sad truth, but there is good news. Just as God provided an animal covering for Adam and Eve, He provides a way for us to receive forgiveness for our sin (Acts 13:38). Then we are able to have a right relationship with Him (Romans 5:10). There in the garden, God promised the devil would one day be crushed. The offspring of Eve that was going to come to rescue us from our sin was God's Son, Jesus (1 John 3:8). All we must do is believe in God and His Son, Jesus (John 12:44). We will learn much

more about Jesus in the weeks to come.

PPT Main Point Main Point: Everyone has sinned and is separated from God.