



## Session 2

# TROUBLE IN THE GARDEN

FOR THE  
LEADER

**Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-24**

God's creation was pristine and perfect. God provided everything Adam would need to flourish. God gave Adam work to do and one command to follow—do not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The work God gave Adam in the garden was not tiresome because God was present with Adam in the garden. Adam enjoyed one-on-one fellowship with his Creator. Unfortunately, the idyllic setting of the garden would not last.

Chapter 3 introduces the serpent. The serpent is called the most cunning of all the creatures God made. The serpent had knowledge of God's command not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God's command for obedience came with a stiff consequence for disobedience—death. When the serpent challenged Eve in the garden, he twisted the words of God and asked if God had really said Adam and Eve couldn't eat from any tree in the garden. Eve's response was true, in part, when she declared God's words instructed them to eat from any tree except one. Eve, however, added additional caveats which forbade her from even touching the tree.

The serpent tricked Eve by announcing that she would not die if she ate from the tree, but her mind would be open to know both good and evil. Everything God created He declared good. Eve saw the fruit was good and pleasing, and she ate it, desiring to gain wisdom as the serpent had promised. She offered some to Adam and immediately the course of all human history changed. Sin entered the world.

Sin has consequences, the greatest being our separation from God. Adam and Eve experienced that separation as they tried to hide from God. God desires obedience. This week, help kids know they should obey everything God says to do. Help kids see from the story of Adam and Eve's sin that sin separates us from God, but God has a plan to rescue us from our sin.

## SESSION FOCUS

### TEXT TRUTH

Obey everything God says to do.

### BIBLE STORY

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-24

### BIBLE VERSE

Deuteronomy 5:32

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Genesis is a book about beginnings—the beginning of the world, the beginning of a people chosen by God, and the beginning of God’s plan to restore all people to Him through His Son, Jesus.

### BIBLE SKILLS: Preschoolers will . . .

- Begin to turn to verse and story references.
- Hear that the Bible teaches people how God wants them to live.



### CONNECT WITH FAMILIES

Provide these weekly resources to help families explore the Bible together.

- Explore the Bible at Home (available on Ministry Grid)
- Preschool Activity Page
- Preschool Family Card

## MISSIONS ACTIVITY: MAKE A PEOPLE POSTER



*Tools: Bible, magazines and catalogs, several pairs of children’s safety scissors, glue, individual pieces of poster board*

- Guide children to look through magazines for people pictures. Suggest that children tear out pages, then cut out individual people pictures.
- After picture cutouts are ready, direct children to glue their pictures on their poster boards.
- Ask a child to find a person on his poster who is young, someone who is old, someone who is a man, and perhaps a baby. Remark that God made all people and He loves them.
- Say: “God wants people to know about Him. That is why He gave us the Bible. We can read the Bible and learn about God.” Remark that missionaries help people have Bibles to read to learn about God.

### LEADER TIP!

Include this special missions-focused activity in addition to preschoolers’ Bible Explorations.

## TEXT TRUTH

Obey everything God says to do.

## BIBLE STORY

Adam and Eve in the Garden  
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-24

## BIBLE VERSE

Be careful to do as God has commanded you.  
Deuteronomy 5:32

## LEADER TIP!

This week's session continues the story of the creation of people and the beginning of mankind's relationship with God.

## LEADER TIP

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the session Bible verse you want to use with your group.

# ADAM AND EVE IN THE GARDEN

## Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-24

*Adam was the first person God made. God created a beautiful garden called Eden for Adam to live in. God told Adam to work in the garden and take care of it. God told Adam he could eat from any of the trees in the garden except for one tree. God told Adam he could not eat from this special tree.*

*After some time, God made a woman, Eve, to be with Adam in the garden. Eve was to help Adam take care of the beautiful garden and animals God made. Just as God had told Adam, Eve could not eat from the special tree.*

*One day Eve made a choice. Eve decided to eat fruit from the special tree even though she knew God said to not do that. Eve even gave some fruit from the special tree to Adam to eat.*

*As soon as Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the special tree, they knew they had made a wrong choice. They had chosen to disobey God's instruction.*

*God was not happy about this. God said to Adam and Eve, "Did you eat fruit from the special tree? What is this you have done?"*

*Eve tried to explain how she made the wrong choice.*

*Then God told Adam and Eve that because they disobeyed Him, God would not allow them to live in the beautiful garden any longer. Adam and Eve would have to go somewhere else to live.*

## BIBLE VERSE



From the Bible text:

*Be careful to do as the Lord your God has commanded you. Deuteronomy 5:32*

Paraphrase:

*Be careful to do as God has commanded you. Deuteronomy 5:32*



## CIRCLE TIME (10–15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

### GATHER

- Before the session, gather different kinds of toy fruit and place them around the room for preschoolers to find.
- Greet preschoolers as they arrive in the circle. Encourage preschoolers to look around the room to locate fruit that grows on trees. Direct children to take the fruit back to the circle, then be seated.
- Say: “We learned from last week’s story that God made different trees and plants to grow in the garden. Today, we are going to hear about a special tree in the garden of Eden.”

### HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Pass the Story Picture around the circle, then prop the picture in a chair.
- Ask preschoolers to name the people in the picture and tell what the people are doing. Comment: “Good. You remembered that the people’s names were Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve were the caretakers of the beautiful garden. But one day, they got into trouble.”
- Open the Bible to Genesis 3, then tell the Bible story in your words.
- Ask a few questions for review:
  - What was Adam’s job? (*care for the animals and plants*)
  - Who was the helper God made for Adam? (*Eve*)
  - What was the one instruction God gave to Adam? (*Do not eat fruit from the special tree.*)
  - What happened when Adam and Eve ate the special fruit? (*God sent them out of the garden to live somewhere else.*)

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Open the Bible to the marker at Deuteronomy 5:32. Show children the words printed on the marker, then lead preschoolers to say the Bible verse.
- Distribute Bibles to preschoolers and help them locate the story and verse passages.

### PRAY

- Pray briefly, asking God to help everyone obey God’s commands.

### TOOLS

- several Bibles
- Music & Print Extras
- assorted toy fruit items

### PACK ITEMS

- 2 Story Picture: Adam & Eve in the Garden
- 15 Fall Text Truths Poster
- 16 Text Truths Poster Add-ons
- 17 September Bible Markers

## EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

### TEXT TRUTH

Obey everything God says to do.

### BIBLE STORY

Adam and Eve in the Garden  
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-24

### BIBLE VERSE

Be careful to do as God has commanded you.  
Deuteronomy 5:32

### PACK ITEMS

2 Story Picture: Adam & Eve in the Garden  
17 September Bible Markers

### PRINTABLES

Allergy Sign

### LEADER TIP!

Older preschoolers may be able to trace their own hand or the hand of a friend. Encourage the children's efforts.

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers. Use the Bible in every exploration.

### MAKE A TREE PICTURE

*Tools: Bible, white cardstock, brown construction paper, child's safety scissors, glue sticks, colored ink pads, pencil, crayons, baby wipes*

- Give a child a sheet of cardstock and brown construction paper. Use a pencil to outline the child's hand and forearm as he rests it on the brown paper.
- Guide the child to cut around his outline. Help if needed.
- Direct the child to glue his cutout to the white card. Next, guide the child to stamp fingerprints over the tree to look like leaves.
- When the child finishes his work, write today's Text Truth on the child's paper.
- Open the Bible to Genesis 3 and comment: "Adam and Eve did not obey God. They ate the fruit from the special tree."

### CARE FOR A GARDEN

*Tools: Bible, Activity Page, toy gardening tools, child-size gardening gloves, small plastic pots, empty seed packets*

- Show the gardening tools to a few children. Talk about people planting and tending to gardens.
- Invite preschoolers to use the tools to pretend to care for a garden.
- Show the picture on the Activity Page. Comment: "Adam and Eve lived in a beautiful garden."
- Find Deuteronomy 5:32 in the Bible. Read the verse.
- Say: "God told Adam and Eve to obey Him, but the people made a wrong choice."
- Tell the Bible story.

## PLAY A TRAFFIC GAME

*Tools: Bible, Music & Print Extras, sheet of red paper, sheet of green paper*

- Give instructions for playing a game. Tell children: "Pretend to drive a vehicle around the room. When I hold up the green paper, you may move. When I hold up the red paper, you must stop."
- Play music as the children follow directions. Invite children to take turns "directing traffic" using the papers.
- Afterward, open the Bible to Genesis 2. Explain: "You obeyed when you followed my instructions. God gave instructions to Adam and Eve. God told the people to obey Him." Add: "God wants us to obey Him."
- Turn to Genesis 3 and show children the names in the Bible.
- Listen to the song "I Can Do What God Wants Me to Do" (track 3).

## TASTE FRUIT

*Tools: Bible, Allergy Sign, Story Picture: Adam and Eve in the Garden, fresh fruit cut into bite-sized pieces, paper plates, napkins, hand sanitizer*

- Clean a child's hands before offering him a snack of fresh fruit.
- Voice a prayer and thank God for fruit and other foods for people to enjoy.
- Say: "Some fruit grows on bushes, but fruits like apples and peaches grow on trees. God told Adam that he and Eve could eat fruit from any tree in the garden except for one. Did Adam and Eve obey God?"
- Show children the Story Picture as you tell the Bible story. Comment: "Adam and Eve both tasted the fruit from the special tree. The people chose to disobey God's instructions."
- Open the Bible to Genesis 3 and show children this story in the Bible.

## BUILD WITH PLASTIC BLOCKS

*Tools: Bible, September Bible Markers, plastic interlocking brick-style blocks, a few toy farm animals*

- Place today's marker in the Bible at Deuteronomy 5:32.
- Invite preschoolers to create structures with the bricks. Suggest that children build fences for the toy animals. Remark that Adam and Eve took care of the animals in the garden.
- Open the Bible to Genesis 3 and tell the Bible story as children play.
- Comment: "God gave Adam and Eve special instructions. But Adam and Eve disobeyed God. God made the people leave the garden."
- Guide a preschooler to open the Bible to the marker. Lead children to repeat the Bible verse with you.

## TEXT TRUTH

Obey everything God says to do.

## BIBLE STORY

Adam and Eve in the Garden  
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-24

*The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

## BIBLE VERSE

Be careful to do as God has commanded you.  
Deuteronomy 5:32

## PACK ITEMS

2 Story Picture: Adam and Eve in the Garden  
20 Animal Match Cards  
21 Bible Book Names

## NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

Look for printable Next Hour Helps in Music & Print Extras.

## GATHER FRUIT & VEGETABLES

*Tools: Bible, plastic fruit and vegetables, 2 baskets, Story Picture: Adam and Eve in the Garden*

- Put the plastic foods in the home center or on a windowsill in your classroom. Lay the Story Picture on the table and cover it with a basket.
- Invite two preschoolers to gather pretend fruit and vegetables. While they gather the food, ask the children if they have been to a market or grocery to get fruit and vegetables.
- Encourage preschoolers to sort the plastic foods into fruit and vegetable categories. Remark: “When God made the world, He made many kinds of plants and trees to provide food for people and animals.”
- Ask a child to get the Story Picture. Remind children that God made a special tree in the beautiful garden, and Eve and Adam were not allowed to eat from that tree.

## PACK A BOX & MOVE

*Tools: Bible, box, newspaper or tissue paper, classroom items, tape, Activity Page*

- Ask children about times they have moved to a new home. Did the children help with the packing and unpacking?
- Guide children to play out moving by wrapping items in paper and packing them into the box. Suggest that the children push the box around the room.
- Show children the picture on the Activity Page. Comment: “God was not pleased that Adam and Eve disobeyed God’s instructions. God made the people leave the garden and live somewhere else.”

## WORK NATURE & PEOPLE PUZZLES

*Tools: Bible, several puzzles featuring people and God’s world, Animal Match Cards, Preschool Family Card*

- Open the Bible to Deuteronomy 5:32. Put the Bible near the puzzles spread on a table.



- Invite a few children to choose puzzles to work. Comment that the puzzles help us think about God creating everything in the world, including people.
- While children work puzzles, talk about choices people make every day. Describe some choices that are good or bad. (See Leader Tip.)
- Say: “Adam and Eve made a wrong choice. They chose to disobey God. Sometimes people disobey God, but God still loves them, just as He loved Adam and Eve.”
- Show the picture on the Family Card and say today’s Bible verse.

**LEADER TIP!**

Choices to suggest might include: listen to your teacher, eat candy rather than a piece of fruit, play quietly while baby sister rests, tear a page from a book, scream and yell, put away toys after playing, and so on.

**SPELL A BIBLE NAME**

*Tools: Bible, magnetic alphabet letters, Bible Book Names, magnetic board or metal cookie pan*

- Lay the Bible Book Name strip for *Genesis* on a table with the Bible. Spread the alphabet letters around the strip.
- When one or two children come to the table, show them the *Genesis* strip. Say: “The story about Adam and Eve is in the Bible book called *Genesis*. The word *Genesis* means ‘beginning.’ *Genesis* tells about the beginning of the world and people.”
- Help a child locate the book of *Genesis* in the Bible. Say: “G-E-N-E-S-I-S. *Genesis*. Can you find letters to spell that word?”

**CIRCLE TIME****GATHER**

- Instruct children to follow your movements as you lead preschoolers to the circle area.
- As children are seated, comment: “God wants people to follow and obey Him.”

**REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY**

- Hold up the Story Picture. Ask preschoolers to describe what they see in the picture.
- Ask: “What happened when Adam and Eve disobeyed God?” (*God told them to leave the garden.*)

**PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS**

- Distribute Bibles to children and ask teachers to help children locate the book of *Genesis*. Remark that this is where we read the Bible story.
- Find the names *Adam*, *Eve*, and *God* on the Bible pages.

**PRAY**

- Ask preschoolers to name one way that they can obey God this week.
- Pray, asking God to help everyone obey God every day.