

THE FALL AND A PROMISE

Fall into Sin
Genesis 3
Sometime after
creation

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

God promises to help sinners.

BIBLE VERSE

The Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world.
1 John 4:14

LEARNER GOAL

I know God sent Jesus to save me from sin.

LAW & GOSPEL

We are self-centered and blame others; for these and many other sins, we deserve temporal and eternal death.

God sent His Son, Jesus, to crush sin, death, and the devil, and through Him, God forgives our sins and gives us eternal life.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

The slithery serpent causes Eve to doubt God's Word with one simple question, "Did God actually say . . .?" (Genesis 3:1). Seeking to gain wisdom, both Eve and Adam rebel against their Creator. Suddenly aware of their condition before God, they vainly attempt to hide their sinful exposure. With sin comes just punishment, yet our heavenly Father does not leave humankind without hope. Instead, He promises One who will come to rescue His people from the jaws of death and Satan.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read Genesis 3 and notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

MORE TIME Read the leader devotion, found in the digital resource center.

IN DEPTH Read "The Fall into Sin" on pages 14–15 of *Know the Bible Now*.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- Play dough, tools & cross-shaped cookie cutters
- Plastic fruit
- Paper plate
- Construction paper or craft sticks
- Jump rope
- Apple slices & dip
- Cups, pipe cleaners, felt, wiggle eyes & stickers

FOR EVERY LESSON

- Bible, songbook & classroom supplies
- Copies of *Discover Leaflet*, stickers & music downloads
- Supplies for bonus activities

LAUNCH

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

PLAY DOUGH Set out play dough, tools, and cross-shaped cookie cutters. Show children how to make crosses and roll play dough to make a snake and a letter S.

Say, **The letter S is the first sound in snake, sin, and Savior. Today we will talk about all of these. We'll learn that God sent Jesus to save us from our sins.**

SORTING Set out plastic fruit to sort and categorize, or hide it in the room to find. Talk about fruit the children like to eat. Tell them that in today's Bible story Adam and Eve broke God's rule and ate a fruit God told them not to eat. They sinned. But God made a plan to save them.

JESUS TIME

SING "We Are in God's House Today" (digital resource center) or "Happy Now We Gather" (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 9)

SAY Ask about things in nature the children saw this week. **God made everything good. But things didn't stay that way. Today we'll find out what happened to God's beautiful world and how God sent Jesus to save us from our sins.**

PRAY Dear God,* help us use our ears* to listen* and to learn* that You sent Your Son, Jesus,* to save us from our sins.* We pray* in His name.* Amen.*
*At the asterisks, have children echo the phrase to God.

LEARN

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Invite the children to play Simon Says. Have Simon give instructions (e.g., jump, hop on one foot, touch ears). Tell children to only do the actions that begin with "Simon says." If Simon does not say "Simon says" first, they should not do the action. If the children do, have them sit down. Afterward, talk about how it is important to follow the rules in the game and do only what Simon says. Today they will learn how it's even more important to do what God says. Say, **When God gave Adam and Eve a beautiful garden to live in, God gave them only one rule: God said they could eat fruit from any tree, except for one special tree in the middle of the garden. Do you think Adam and Eve did what God said? Let's find out.**

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Show your Bible before you tell the story and when you read the Bible Verse. Tell the children that all the stories in God's Word are true.

Draw a happy face on one side of a paper plate and a sad face on the other. Show the faces as you tell the story in your own words, using the *Discover Leaflet* as a guide. Use the leaflet questions to review.

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Read the Bible Verse from 1 John 4:14 in your Bible, and have children say and do the actions with you. Tell them that Adam and Eve sinned, but God did not stop loving them. God sent Jesus to save us from our sins!

**The Father
has sent His Son
to be the Savior
of the world.**

Point up.
Rock baby.
Make a cross with fingers.
Point to everyone.



LEADER NOTE

Remember to greet each child. Children will begin to make friends as they work on an activity that connects what they know to what they will learn. If class time is short, omit these and start with Jesus Time.



BONUS ACTIVITY

The "Buddy Talk" activity uses a puppet to introduce the story. We've called him Buddy because it means "good friend." Children love puppets and relate to them as friends.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Do "Bible Verse Fun" to reinforce learning.

LIVE

DISCOVER LESSON TRUTHS

Separate each *Discover Leaflet* into two pages. Send the first page home with the children. Hand out the second page of the leaflets, stickers, and crayons.

SIDE 1 Tell children to color the snake and draw a cross by Adam and Eve. Remind them that Adam and Eve sinned. We do too, but God sent Jesus to save us from our sins. *Option:* Tell children to finish this picture at home or in church.

SIDE 2 Talk about the scenes showing sin and forgiveness. Have children connect the dashes on the cross and draw lines to connect the sin scene to its matching forgiveness scene. They can color the cross or glue two pieces of construction paper or craft sticks to it. Say, **Sin makes God angry and sad. Adam and Eve tried to hide from God when they sinned. Sometimes we want to hide our sins too. But God knows what we have done. We can't hide our sin from Him. When we sin, God wants us to say, "I'm sorry." When others sin and hurt us, God wants us to say, "I forgive you."** Practice saying this.

Tell children that when Adam and Eve sinned, God promised to send a Savior. A Savior rescues us from a trouble that we cannot save ourselves from. Give examples, such as a lifeguard or firefighter. Say, **God kept His promise. God sent Jesus to save us from our sins! God forgives our sins because of Jesus.**

ENGAGE IN ACTIVE LEARNING

Take time to reinforce the lesson truths with one or more of these active learning options. Turn to "Active Learning" on the back page for instructions to do the activities below.

□ MOVE

Use a jump rope exercise to teach about sin and forgiveness.

□ SNACK

Serve apple slices and dip to review the story and help children think about what it means for their lives.

□ CREATE

Make storytelling puppets to use to tell the Bible story at home.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Do children understand that Adam and Eve sinned and we do too? Did they grasp that sin spoiled God's world, but God made a plan to save us? Check for understanding by asking children to give examples of sin and how it makes us sad, then telling about God's plan to save us. Say, **God sent Jesus to save us from sin. Jesus makes us happy!**

LEAVE

SING "I Am Sorry, Jesus" (digital resource center) or "I'm Sorry" (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 27)

SAY **Sin spoiled God's beautiful world. Sin causes troubles and sadness and even death. But today we learned that God sent Jesus to save us from sin. God promises to take everyone who believes in Jesus to heaven, where everything will be beautiful and perfect again.**

PRAY **Dear God, sin spoils everything. It makes us sad. We are sorry for our sins. Thank You for sending Jesus to save us from our sins. Jesus makes things right again with You! That makes us happy! Amen.**



CHRIST CONNECTION

God sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from sin.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Collect Bible story books.

ACTIVE LEARNING

□ MOVE

Choose two children to hold opposite ends of a jump rope close to the ground to represent a slithering snake. Have the other children try to jump over the snake without the snake touching them.

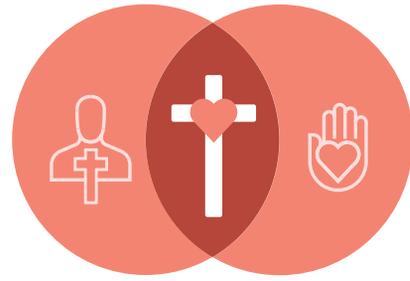
Talk about how Satan (in the form of a snake) tempted Adam and Eve to sin. He wants to trip us and make us fall into sin too. Discuss how sin hurts us. It separates us from God and one another. Help children give examples. Say, **The punishment for not obeying God's rules is death. But God sent Jesus to save us from sin! He is our Savior.**

□ SNACK

Serve apple slices and dip. Turn the slices to show happy and sad faces as you review the story and talk about how sin makes us sad, but God's forgiveness through Jesus makes us happy! Say a table prayer; then enjoy the snack.

□ CREATE

Make storytelling puppets. Give children stickers of God, Adam, Eve, and the tree to add to upside-down cups. Give them several pipe cleaners to twist together to make snakes. They can add wiggle eyes and felt tongues to their snakes and attach their snakes to the tree puppet. Encourage them to use their puppets to tell the Bible story at home.



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God has redeemed me, a sinful human, through the Promised One, Jesus Christ.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I can forgive others their sins against me because in Christ, God has forgiven me.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on learning for each age.

ADULT

I can summarize the story of mankind's fall into sin and God's initial plan to restore creation.

YOUTH

I can explain that humans are God's special creation, born into sin and in need of a Savior.

ELEMENTARY

I understand that I am a child of God but also a sinner in need of a Savior.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God sent Jesus to save me from sin.

BONUS ACTIVITIES

BUDDY TALK

5 minutes

Buddy's mom told him not to eat the cinnamon rolls, but he ate two anyway. Now he feels bad. Tell Buddy that disobeying is a sin. It makes us feel bad. It hurts others. It makes God sad too. God wants us to say we are sorry. Encourage Buddy to ask his mom to forgive him. He asks what *forgive* means. Tell him that we all think, say, and do wrong things—we sin. But God loves us and sent Jesus to be punished for our sins on the cross. Because of Jesus, God forgives us. Buddy asks why we sin. Tell him that the Bible story answers that question, and have him sit and listen.

BIBLE VERSE FUN

10 minutes

Do the action rhyme "Sin Enters the World" with the children (*Wiggle and Wonder*, p. 33).

At the end of the rhyme, have children say the Bible Verse with you. Say, **God's Word says, "The Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world."**

COLLECT BOOKS

Time may vary

Give children an opportunity to put their faith into action. Talk to them about how everyone needs to hear the Good News of God's love and forgiveness through our Savior, Jesus. Then invite them to bring a Bible story book to give to hospitals or send to the mission field for boys and girls who need to hear that Jesus loves them.