

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

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 "Feasting and Fellowship with God in Eden" and "The History of Humanity" on page 19 of *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

IN DEPTH Read pages 8–13 in *Know the Bible Now* for more background information on Genesis.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- Shells or plastic cups for game
- Pictures of Adam and Eve, tape, glue stick, and stapler

FOR EVERY LESSON

- Device with downloaded music
- Pens or pencils
- Student copies of *Explore Bible Guidebook*
- Bible
- Copies of downloadable activity page
- Supplies for bonus activities
- cph.org/digitalcontent



LEADER NOTE

Play the “shell game” with kids. (You can use plastic cups if you don’t have shells.) Hide a little ball under one shell/cup and then move the shells/cups around while you talk. When you’re done, explain that you tried to trick them by hiding the ball and moving it around. Satan also tricks us.



GUIDEBOOKS

Hand out student copies of the *Explore Bible Guidebook* and turn to Lesson 2.



LEADER NOTE

Use a Bible app to listen to the Bible account with your class.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Check the bonus activity “Nature Walk” on the back page for an outdoor way to extend this account.

LAUNCH

PRAY Dear Lord, bless us as we gather to study Your Word today. Help us to learn how You promise to help sinners. Amen.

SING “Builder of Everything”
“God, Who Built This Wondrous Planet”
Music can be found in the digital resource center.

SAY How do you try to hide it from your parents or teachers when you’ve done something wrong?
Does this strategy usually work?
How do you feel when you know you’ve done something wrong but you’re hiding it?

LEARN

READ “THE FALL AND A PROMISE”

Read the Bible narrative aloud to your students.

FOR STRONG READERS Ask volunteers to take turns reading sections aloud either from the *Explore Bible Guidebook* or directly from Scripture.

FOR ACTIVE LEARNERS Choose three students to pantomime the parts of Adam, Eve, and the serpent as you read. Show students how to use exaggerated, melodramatic movements to illustrate their part in the story.

DO SOMETHING

Print a picture of Adam and Eve on a piece of construction paper or card stock, then tear it apart to show how our sin separates us from God and from one another. Make several copies. For added fun, have different groups use different means to put it back together: tape, glue stick, stapler, and the like. Even when you tape it back together, you can still see the torn lines. We can never hide these scars of sin from God. It’s only when He sees us through the saving work of Jesus on the cross that our scars of sin are gone for good. Someday, we’ll all be made new when Jesus returns.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Help students see that they, like Adam and Eve, were created by God, but they have also inherited the problem of sin from their ancestors Adam and Eve.
- Eating from the forbidden fruit poisoned our relationship with God and the rest of the world.
- The devil is very skilled at twisting words and telling lies. The devil continues to twist God’s Word and tell us lies.
- God promised a Savior to Adam and Eve and to us. Remind students that we learn about that precious Savior, Jesus, when we come to church and Bible class.

LIVE

EXPLORE THE CONTEXT

Before you start the discussion questions, use the *Explore Bible Guidebook* for further discussion about life in the garden before the fall and in creation after the fall.

TALK ABOUT IT

- ▶ **The devil loves to twist God’s Word, plant doubts, and tell lies. What lie did he tell in the garden?** (“Did God really say . . . ?”)
- ▶ **What lies does he tell you? How does he make you doubt?**
- ▶ **God gives us boundaries (such as “Don’t eat from that tree”) to protect us, not because He doesn’t love us—in fact, it’s just the opposite. It’s because God loves us that He gives us these boundaries. Adam and Eve didn’t know evil until they ate of that tree. What are some boundaries in your life that keep you safe?**
- ▶ **Adam didn’t eat the apple first, so why is he still in trouble?** (Adam knew the serpent was lying to Eve in the Garden of Eden [1 Timothy 2:14], but he did not speak up to protect her. He even ate the fruit she handed him, knowing he would die. Adam believed God’s promise to send a Savior and taught that promise to his children and grandchildren after him.)

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE TOGETHER

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

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Jesus died to take away the sins of Adam and Eve and all their descendants (that includes you and me).
- Read **Romans 5:15** for a New Testament explanation.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Be sure to review the Bible Truth, and check for understanding by asking students to tell you today’s story in their own words before they leave.

LEAVE

SAY Praise God for He promises to help sinners. Our verse for today reminds us of that: “The Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world” (1 John 4:14). We are the world that He came to save!

SING “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”
“The Lord’s Prayer”
Music can be found in the digital resource center.

PRAY Thank You, heavenly Father, for sending a Savior, Jesus, to rescue us from our sin. Help us to share that Good News of Jesus with others. In Your name we pray. Amen.



DOWNLOADABLE PAGE

Extend learning by printing the downloadable activity page, found in the digital resource center. See the back page of this guide for details.



CHRIST CONNECTION

Even though the text of Genesis 3:15 is more abstract than most elementary-age students will understand, it is here that we first see God’s promise to send a Savior.

