Use Week of:

Sin Entered the World

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 3:1-24
MAIN POINT: Adam and Eve's sin separated them from God.
UNIT KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6
BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.

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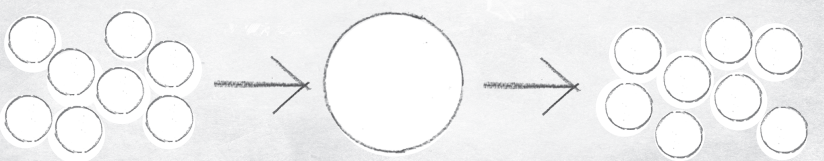

Leader BIBLE STUDY

Adam and Eve enjoyed all that was good in the garden of Eden. The Lord gave them only one restriction: "You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil," and the punishment was severe: "You will certainly die" (Gen. 2:17).

Before the fall, Adam and Eve enjoyed a loving, two-way relationship with God. The garden was a true paradise. God filled the garden with good gifts so that they might enjoy them and give thanks to God; this glorifies God. All of that changed when Adam and Eve gave in to the serpent's temptation. Eve believed the lie that leads many of us to sin: Maybe God is holding out on me.

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Adam and Eve desired something more: the wisdom the fruit offered. But when their eyes were opened, they were aware of their nakedness and they felt ashamed. Surely the Lord's heart broke at their act of disobedience and rebellion. Because of their sin, He cast them out of the garden. Though they did not die right away, sin's effect was immediate and thorough. Their lives and their children's lives—and the lives of all of mankind—would be forever affected by their choice.

God did not leave Adam and Eve without hope. He promised that one of Eve's descendants would strike the head of the serpent. (Gen. 3:15) Each generation after Eve hoped that one of their children would be the Promised One—the One who would crush the head of the snake and put an end to the curse over creation.

Sin is a big problem that needs a big solution. At just the right time, God sent His Son into the world, born as a baby. Matthew 1:21 says, "You are to name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins." As the kids you teach become increasingly aware of the bad news—that we are all sinners from birth—rejoice with them over the good news: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Tim. 1:15).



Additional resources for each session are available at *gospelproject.com.* For free training and session-by-session help, visit *www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.*

Sin Entered the World

Genesis 3:1-24

God gave the first two people—**Adam and Eve—a beautiful garden to live in.** The garden was full of food they could eat. **God also gave them one command. He told Adam that he could eat from any tree in the garden except for one.** It was called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. **God said that if Adam did eat from the tree, he would die.**

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the animals. One day, the serpent went to Eve. He asked, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden'?"

Eve answered, "We can eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. But God told us not to eat from the tree in the middle of the garden. He said that if we eat the fruit or touch it, we will die."

"No! **You will not die," the serpent said. The serpent told Eve that rather than dying, she and Adam would be like God!** They would know good and evil.

Eve looked at the fruit God had said not to eat. It did look delicious, and the serpent said it would give them wisdom. So she **took some of the fruit and ate it. Eve also gave some of the fruit to Adam, who was with her, and he ate it.**

Then their eyes were opened, and they knew they were naked. Adam and Eve sewed together fig leaves and made clothes for themselves.

That evening, Adam and Eve heard God walking in the garden. They hid among the trees. God called out to Adam, "Where are you?"

Adam said, "I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid."

God asked Adam, "Who told you that you were naked? **Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"**

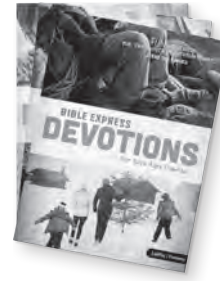
Adam blamed Eve. "She gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it," he said.

Eve blamed the serpent. "He tricked me," she said.

God said that because of the serpent's trick and Adam and Eve's disobedience, bad things would happen. Eve would have more pain when she had children, and Adam would struggle to work the ground for food. God said that the snake would crawl on its belly and be an enemy to the woman. **But God promised that one of Eve's descendants would destroy the serpent.**

Everything changed after Adam and Eve sinned. Sin separated Adam and Eve from God. God made them clothes out of animal skins and then **sent them out of the garden. God put an angel at the entrance of the garden**. The angel had a sword of fire **to guard the way to the tree of life.**

Christ Connection: Since Adam and Eve, everyone has sinned against God. Our sin separates us from God. God promised that one of Eve's descendants would put an end to sin and death. God sent His Son, Jesus, to live as Adam didn't—perfectly sinless. God the Son came into the world to rescue people from sin and bring them back to God.



WANT TO DISCOVER GOD'S WORD? GET *BIBLE EXPRESS!*

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover that Adam and Eve exchanged the truth—God is good—for the serpent's lie. (Rom. 1:25) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out *www.lifeway.com/devotionals.*

Small Group OPENING

SESSION TITLE: Sin Entered the World
BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 3:1-24
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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Invite volunteers to share something that happened this week that made them feel frustrated or angry. What do they wish would have been different?

Activity page (5 minutes)

- "Out of Eden" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete "Out of Eden" maze on the activity page. Remind kids that when God created Adam and Eve, He gave them a beautiful garden to live in.

SAY • In today's Bible story, something bad happened and God sent Adam and Eve away from the garden of Eden.

Session starter (10 minutes)



- pieces of fruit (real or plastic)

OPTION 1: Find the fruit

Before class, position a few pieces of fruit somewhere in the room—out of the way, but not out of sight. Invite kids to play a seeking game. Explain that you will describe an item in the room. They should guess what you are describing.

When kids think they know what you are describing, they should raise their hands. Call on a kid with his hand

raised to guess. If he is correct, play again by describing another piece of fruit. If he is incorrect, keep giving clues.

Before each clue, say this rhyme: "I can see it. Can you see it, too? I can see it. How about you? It's in this room. It's [*describe the item*]. What is it?"

Challenge kids with creative descriptions. You might choose to describe an apple as "shiny" or "smaller than a book" rather than "round and red."

SAY • Did it take you long to find the fruit? Today we are going to hear a Bible story about some fruit that God said to stay away from.

OPTION 2: Puzzle race

• 24-piece floor puzzle

Mix up the pieces of a large floor puzzle and pile them at one end of the room. Display the puzzle box at the other end of the room so kids can see the picture.

Guide kids to stand in a single-file line. Explain that when you say "go," the first player will pick up a puzzle piece, race to the other side of the room, and position it on the floor. Kids should take turns carrying pieces across the room and positioning them together to finish the puzzle. Encourage kids to cheer on their teammates and offer helpful suggestions about where a piece might fit.

If your group is large, choose a puzzle with more pieces or form two or more smaller groups.

SAY • This puzzle looks so much better when it's all put back together! Today's Bible story is about something that was broken and God's plan to put it back together again.

Transition to large group

Large Group LEADER

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Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as large group time begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

• leader attire
• sunglasses
• large, heavy Bible

[Large Group Leader enters, panting as if out of breath. Leader's hair is disheveled with sunglasses slightly askew.]

LEADER • Whew! Whoa. Hi there! Oh, boy. I am so glad to be back on the ground! It's dangerous up there! I was up in my hot air balloon, taking in the beautiful views of the countryside, when all of a sudden … *whoosh!* I was nearly blown right out of the sky by a very strong gust of wind! The balloon was totally out of control. The basket was flopping back and forth, and I was just hanging on for dear life. I don't think I have ever prayed so hard in my life! I probably would have blown away if I hadn't been holding onto this heavy Bible. This here is a lifesaver—literally!

Giant timeline (1 minute)

• Giant Timeline

LEADER • Now that I'm back on level ground, let's figure out where we are. Let's see. A couple of weeks ago, we started back here at the very beginning of the

Bible. Remember, even though the Bible has a lot of little stories in it, they all come together to tell one big story! First, we heard that God created everything. That's right. **God created everything for His glory.** And after God made the sun and moon and stars and sky and animals, He created people! **God created people in His own image; God created them male and female.** Today's Bible story is called "Sin Entered the World." Uh-oh. That does not sound good!

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • Our big picture question was, ***Why did God create the world? God created the world and everything in it for His glory.*** This week, we have a new big picture question: ***What is sin?*** Well, if it entered the world, we better find out what it is! Listen closely to the Bible story to see if you can find the answer.

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Genesis 3. Tell the Bible story in your own words, or show the Bible story video "Sin Entered the World."

- Bibles
- "Sin Entered the World" video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster

LEADER • Oh, no! Adam and Eve chose not to obey God. They took the fruit that God told Adam not to eat, and they ate it! They broke God's law, and God sent them out of the garden of Eden. Adam and Eve sinned. ***What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.***

God is holy. *Holy* means "set apart." God can't be around sin, so sin separates people from God. **Adam**

and Eve's sin separated them from God. This is so sad! Before sin entered the world, Adam and Eve had everything they needed. They were friends with God, and He gave them good gifts like the garden to live in and fruit from other trees.

When Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, sin came into the world and everything changed. God had warned Adam that if he ate the fruit he would die. Adam did not die right away, but all of creation started to decay. Have you ever seen a plant wither up in the sun? Or have you ever been sick? The world is not supposed to be like this! Because of sin, everything is broken. And since Adam and Eve, everyone has sinned against God. We are all separated from God because of our sin. The punishment for sin is death. What terrible news.

God did not turn His back and leave Adam and Eve. He made them a promise. God promised that one of Eve's descendants would destroy the serpent. God meant that sin and death would not last forever. What good news! God had a plan to send His Son, Jesus, to live as Adam didn't—perfectly sinless. God the Son came into the world to rescue people from sin and bring them back to God.

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me (optional)

Use Scripture and the guide provided with this session to explain to boys and girls how to become a Christian. Assign individuals to meet with kids who have more questions.

Encourage boys and girls to ask their parents, small group leaders, or other Christian adults any questions they may have about becoming a Christian.

Sing (4 minutes)

- "All Creatures of Our God and King (He Is Our Gain)" song

LEADER • Oh, this good news makes my heart so happy. God did not have to send Jesus. We don't deserve Him! But God loves us so much. He did not leave us alone. He had a wonderful plan to rescue sinners. Let's sing!

Sing together "All Creatures of Our God and King (He Is Our Gain)."

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

- "Unit 1, Session 3" discussion starter video

LEADER • Have you ever done something and immediately regretted it? Adam and Eve probably regretted their decision to disobey God. Sin changed everything! Because of sin, everything is broken, and we can't fix it ourselves. Check this out.

Show the "Unit 1, Session 3" discussion starter video. Lead boys and girls to talk about the video. Could the shattered vase be fixed with glue? Could it be made like new?

LEADER • What should Nell have done? What does God want us to do when we sin?

What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God. Jesus came into the world to rescue people from sin and bring them back to God. Jesus can take away our sin and make us new!

Key passage (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- "There Is Only One" song

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together 1 Corinthians 8:6.

LEADER • There is only one God, and everything comes from Him. Every sunrise? That's from God. Every rainfall? That's from God too. Every mountain and

bumblebee and cloud—everything is from God! He created us and wants us to live for Him.

Review the hand motions from previous sessions. Choose a couple of volunteers to lead the boys and girls to perform the hand motions as they read the verse aloud. Then sing together "There Is Only One."

Prayer (2 minutes)

LEADER • It's almost time for you to head to your small groups. Before you go, who would like to answer our big picture question? ***What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.***

Let's pray. Lord God, our hearts break when we think about sin and its effect on everything You created. We admit that like Adam and Eve, we have all sinned, or chosen to disobey You. We try to hide from You, but You came to find us and rescue us from sin. Thank You for sending Jesus to rescue us. This is such good news! We love You. Amen.

Dismiss to small groups

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means "good news." It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

 **God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

 **We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

 **God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

 **Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:19.

 **We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.

Small Group LEADER

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Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- green sticky notes
- marker

Write each word of the key passage on a separate sticky note. Mix up the sticky notes and use them to cover the key passage poster.

Ask kids to point out the first word of the key passage. Allow a volunteer to pull off the sticky note. Then kids should point out the second word, third word, and so forth. When kids have removed all the words in the correct order, lead them to read the key passage from the poster.

SAY • God wants us to live for Him. He created us for His glory. Adam and Eve chose not to give God glory when they disobeyed Him.

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Main Point Poster

Guide each kid to open his or her Bible to Genesis 3.

SAY • When the serpent tricked Eve, the serpent said, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden'?" I think that serpent probably knew exactly what God had said! He tried to trick Eve; he lied and told Eve that she would not die if she ate the fruit.

Explain that you will read some statements about the Bible story. Kids should look at Genesis 3 to determine if the statement is true or false. When they find the answer, kids

should raise their hands. Precede each statement with "Does the Bible really say … ?"

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

1. God told Adam that he could eat from any of the trees in the garden except for two.
   (*false, except for one tree—the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; Gen. 2:16-17*)
2. God said that Adam would die if he ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. (*true, Gen. 2:17*)
3. The salamander tricked Eve into eating from the tree. (*false, the serpent; Gen. 3:1-4*)
4. When Adam and Eve ate the fruit, they went blind. (*false, they saw that they were naked; Gen. 3:7*)
5. In the evening, Adam and Eve heard God digging in the garden. (*false, walking; Gen. 3:8*)
6. When Adam and Eve heard God in the garden, they hid among the trees. (*true, Gen. 3:8*)
7. Eve blamed the serpent. She said, "He tricked me." (*true, Gen. 3:13*)
8. God promised that one of Eve's descendants would destroy the serpent. (*true, Gen. 3:15*)
9. God said Adam and Eve would have to live in the garden of Eden forever.
   (*false, He sent them out of the garden; Gen. 3:23*)

SAY • **Adam and Eve's sin separated them from God.** God promised that one of Eve's descendants would put an end to sin and death. God had a wonderful plan to rescue people from sin. One day He would send His Son, Jesus, to put an end to sin and death.



- fabulous prize (optional)

Activity choice (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Team representative

Form two or more teams. Instruct each team to choose a representative for a competition. Invite each representative to the front of the room. Explain that each player represents his or her team. If the representative wins, the team wins. If you have a fabulous prize, show it off. Point out that if the representative loses, the team loses.

Give the representatives difficult tasks that they are likely unable to complete. Examples:

Tip: Allow kids to try several "impossible" tasks, like counting to 1 trillion.

- Say the Declaration of Independence from memory.
- Do 50 push-ups in 10 seconds.
- Solve a long division problem without a calculator.

Finally, announce that every representative lost, so no one receives the fabulous prize.

SAY • In the garden of Eden, Adam was our representative. He was the first man. Adam's sin affected everyone who came after him—even us today.

Everyone sins, and we deserve the punishment for sin. God said that the punishment for sin is death. **Adam and Eve's sin separated them from God**, and sin separates us from God. But God loves us, and He sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from sin. Jesus never sinned. He came to take the punishment we deserve for our sin. When we trust in Jesus, He is our representative. God sees us as Jesus is—perfectly righteous—and gives us eternal life.

- plastic spoons, 1 per kid
- chocolate-covered candy pieces
- Allergy Alert printable

OPTION 2: The blame game

Guide boys and girls to stand in a circle. Give each kid a plastic spoon and a candy piece. Instruct kids to position the candy on their spoons. Begin clapping a slow rhythm.

Explain that kids should begin passing their candies, one at a time, with the beat. Slowly increase the speed of clapping.

When someone drops a candy, pause the game. Ask players to determine who was at fault—the person passing the candy or the person receiving it. The player at fault must sit out, but his candy remains in play. Difficulty increases with fewer players.

Make sure kids are not cruel in "passing the blame." If tension rises, pause the game and talk about how Adam and Eve must have felt when God confronted them for their sin.

SAY • **Adam and Eve's sin separated them from God.** Since Adam and Eve, everyone has sinned. When we sin, we don't need to blame others or make excuses. We can confess our sin because Jesus died to take the punishment for our sin. When we trust in Jesus, God will forgive our sin.

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute pencils and journal pages.

SAY • Think of a time you did something wrong. What was your punishment? Write about or draw a picture of how you felt. The Bible says we deserve to die for our sin, but Jesus came to rescue us from sin. How does this good news make you feel?

- pencils
- Journal Page
- "What Is Sin?" activity page, 1 per kid

As time allows, lead kids to complete "What Is Sin?" on the activity page. Kids should cross out every third letter from left to right, starting on the top row and working down.

Kids will fill in the blanks to reveal the answer to, ***What is sin?*** (*Answer: Sin is breaking God's law.*)

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.

Journal Page

God the Creator

Key Passage: 1 Corinthians 8:6

Big Picture Questions: Why did God create the world? God created the world and everything in it for His glory.
What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.

Session 1: God Created the World
Genesis 1:1-25
God created everything for His glory.

Session 2: God Created People
Genesis 1:26-2:25
God created people in His own image; God created them male and female.

Session 3: Sin Entered the World
Genesis 3:1-24
Adam and Eve's sin separated them from God.

Session 4: Cain and Abel
Genesis 4:1-16,25-26
Cain's sin separated him from God and people.

Session 5: Noah and the Ark
Genesis 6:5–9:17
God is holy, and He punishes sin.

Session 6: The Tower of Babel
Genesis 11:1-9
God created people to give glory to Him alone.



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There is one God, the Father. All things are from Him, and we exist for Him. And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ. All things are through Him, and we exist through Him.

1 Corinthians 8:6



There is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

1 Corinthians 8:6



There is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

1 Corinthians 8:6



There is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

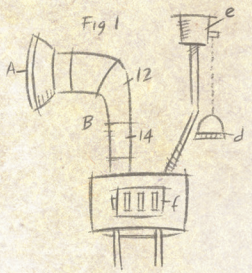
1 Corinthians 8:6



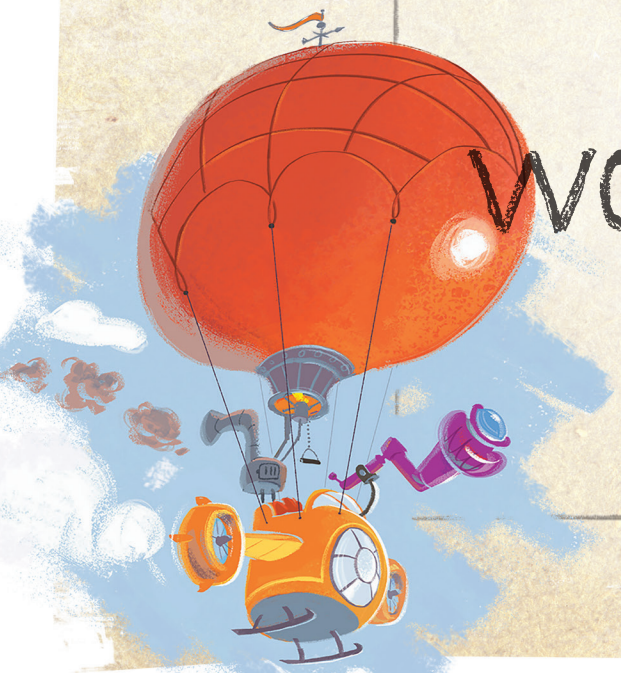
Why did God create the world?

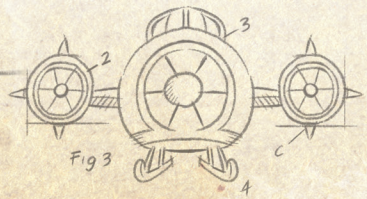


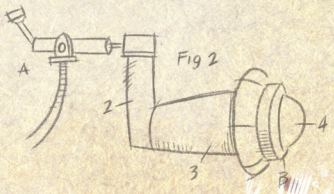
Why did God create the world?

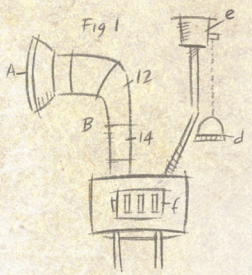


God created the world and everything in it for His glory.



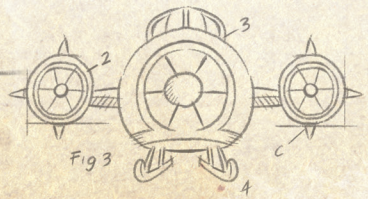


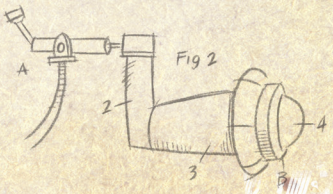




What is sin?







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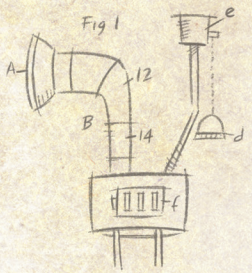
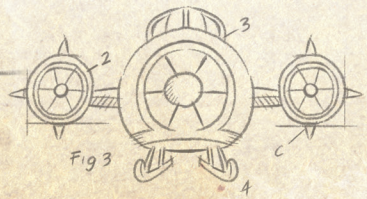
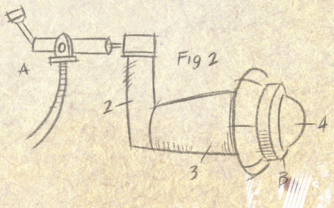


Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.







Adam and Eve's sin separated them from God.





Journal Page

Think of a time you did something wrong. What was your punishment? Write about or draw a picture of how you felt. The Bible says we deserve to die for our sin, but Jesus came to rescue us from sin. How does this good news make you feel?



FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What were the consequences of Adam and Eve's sin? (See Genesis 3:16-19.)
- What are some ways that you have sinned?
- How does Jesus help us with our sin problem? (*Jesus paid for sin on the cross so everyone who trusts Him is forgiven. He also frees us from sin. The Holy Spirit helps us resist temptation.*)

FOLD



Sin Entered the World

Genesis 3:1-24

MAIN POINT: ADAM AND EVE'S SIN SEPARATED THEM FROM GOD.

God gave Adam and Eve a beautiful garden to live in. God also gave them one command. He told Adam that he could eat from any tree in the garden except for one. God said that if Adam did eat from the tree, he would die.

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the animals. One day, the serpent asked Eve, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden'?"

Eve answered, "God told us not to eat from the tree in the middle of the garden. If we eat the fruit or touch it, we will die."

"You will not die," the serpent said. The serpent told Eve that rather than dying, she and Adam would be like God!

Eve took some of the fruit and ate it. Eve also gave some of the fruit to Adam, who was with her, and he ate it.

Then their eyes were opened, and they knew they were naked.

That evening, Adam and Eve heard God walking in the garden. They hid among the trees. God called out to Adam, "Where are you?"

God asked, "Did you eat from the tree I commanded you not to eat from?"

Adam blamed Eve. Eve blamed the serpent.

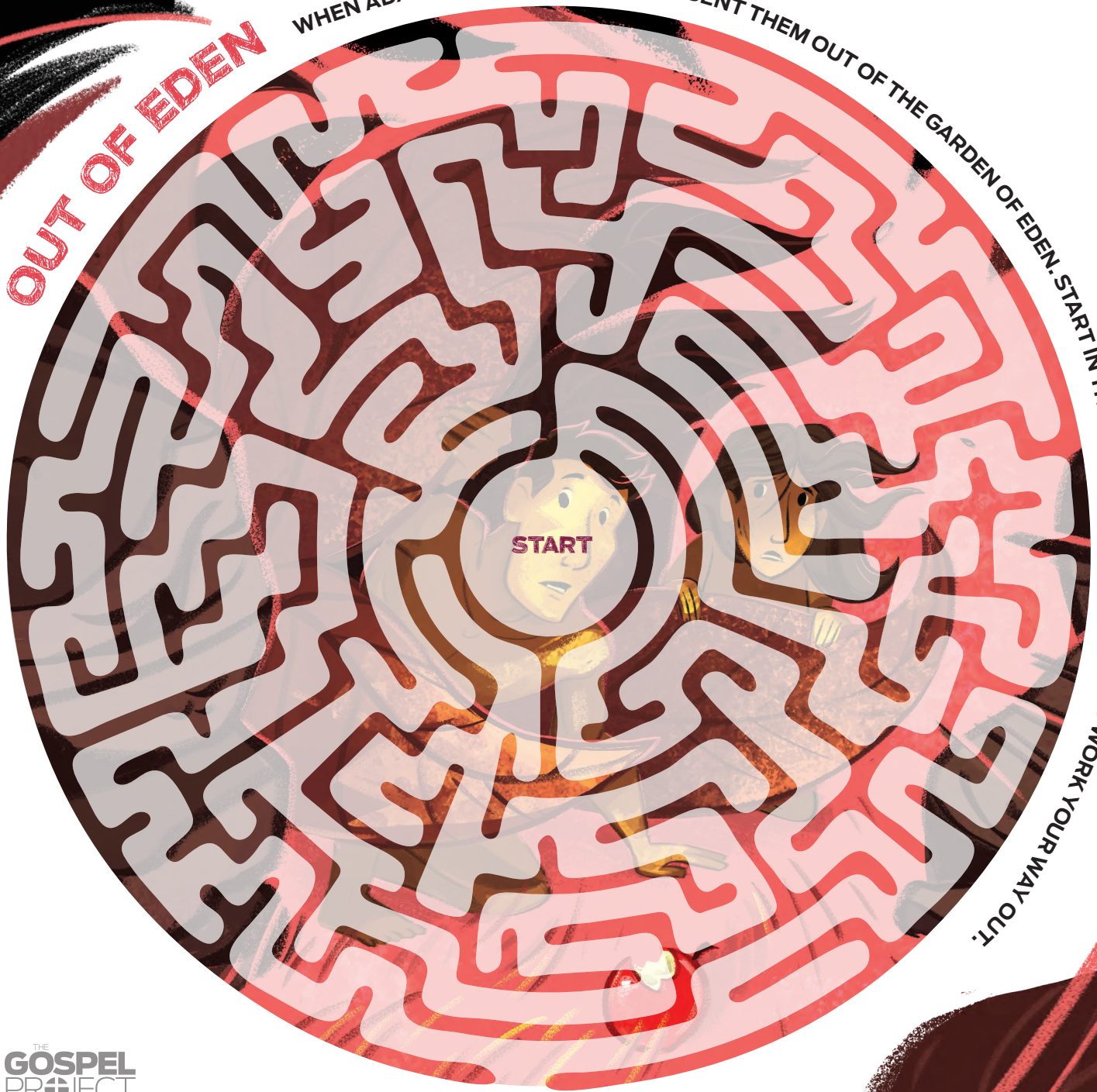
God said that because of the serpent's trick and Adam and Eve's disobedience, bad things would happen. But God promised that one of Eve's descendants would destroy the serpent.

Everything changed after Adam and Eve sinned. Sin separated Adam and Eve from God. God sent them out of the garden. God put an angel at the entrance of the garden to guard the way to the tree of life.

Christ Connection: Since Adam and Eve, everyone has sinned against God. Our sin separates us from God. God promised that one of Eve's descendants would put an end to sin and death. God sent His Son, Jesus, to live as Adam didn't—perfectly sinless. God the Son came into the world to rescue people from sin and bring them back to God.

OUT OF EDEN

WHEN ADAM AND EVE SINNED, GOD SENT THEM OUT OF THE GARDEN OF EDEN. START IN THE CENTER OF THE MAZE AND WORK YOUR WAY OUT.



WHAT IS SIN?

Cross out every third letter. Write the remaining letters in the blanks below to find the answer.

S	I	R	N	I
K	S	B	W	R
E	C	A	K	K
I	N	V	G	G
N	O	D	M	S
L	T	A	W	E