Use Week of:

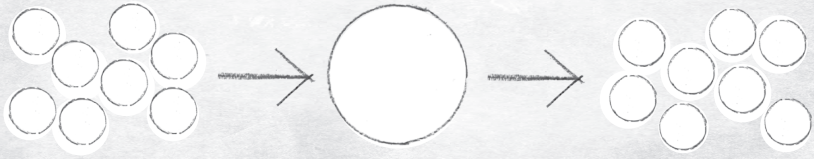
Sin Entered the World

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

SMALL GROUP OPENING
(15–20 MINUTES)
PAGE 34

LARGE BIBLE STUDY
(10–15 MINUTES)
PAGE 36

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES
(20–25 MINUTES)
PAGE 38



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 preschoolers 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

The two first people—**Adam and Eve—lived in a beautiful garden.** God gave them the garden, and He put trees in it. The trees made fruit that they could eat. **God gave Adam and Eve one rule. God said, "You may eat from any tree in the garden, except for one.** Do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. **If you eat from that tree, you will die."**

Out of all the animals on the earth, **the serpent was very sneaky.** One day, **the serpent asked Eve** a question. **"Did God really say, 'Do not eat from any tree in the garden'?"** Now the serpent knew that Adam and Eve were allowed to eat from all the trees but one. **He was trying to trick Eve.**

Eve said, "No, we can eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. **God gave us just one rule: Do not eat from the tree in the middle of the garden.** God said that **if we eat the fruit from that tree or touch it, we will die."**

"No!" said the serpent. "You will not die. If you eat the fruit, **you will be like God and 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 **Eve took some of the fruit and ate it. She gave some to Adam**, who was with her, **and he ate it too.**

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

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

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

God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I told you not to eat from?"

Adam said, "Eve gave me some fruit, and I ate it."

Eve said, "The serpent tricked me."

Adam and Eve had disobeyed God. That is called sin. God said that because of their sin, bad things would happen. **Life would be painful and work would be hard.** God said that **the serpent would crawl on its belly** and be an enemy to people. **But God promised that someone would come from Eve's family to get rid of the serpent.**

Everything was different after Adam and Eve sinned. They were not close to God like before. God made Adam and Eve clothes out of animal skins **and sent them out of the garden.** An angel stood at the entrance of the garden. The angel held a sword of fire to guard the way to the tree of life.

Christ Connection: After Adam and Eve, everybody has sinned. Sin keeps us from God, but it won't keep God from us. He loves us anyway, and He promised that someone from Eve's family would take away sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue people from sin and bring them back to God.



WANT TO DISCOVER GOD'S WORD? GET *MORE!*

Invite preschoolers 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
MAIN POINT: Adam and Eve sinned.
UNIT KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6
BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law.

Welcome

- "God Makes Everything" song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys

Play the unit theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- "Fruit Tree" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or crayons

Guide children to draw an *X* over each piece of fruit on the tree.

SAY • I love to eat fruit. Do you? Fruit is so yummy! After God created Adam and Eve, He put them in a beautiful garden to live. There were many fruit trees in the garden. God told Adam and Eve they could eat fruit from any tree in the garden except for one.

Mother, may I?



Designate one child to be *Mother*. *Mother* should stand by herself at one end of the space while the rest of the children stand side by side in a line facing her. *Mother* instructs each child to take a certain number of a specific type of step. Types of steps include normal steps, baby steps, giant steps, bunny hops, and frog hops. Before completing the action, the child should then ask, "Mother, may I?" *Mother* then

says, "Yes, you may." The child then follows the instruction. If a child fails to ask, "Mother, may I?" he must go back to the beginning of the line. The first child to reach *Mother* is the winner and the next *Mother*. Boys may be *Father* instead of *Mother*.

SAY • You all did a great job following Mother's instructions. In our Bible story today, God gave Adam and Eve only one instruction. He said they could eat fruit from any tree in the garden except for one. That sounds easy, but do you think Adam and Eve obeyed God's instruction? Let's find out!

Paper plate serpents

- paper plates
- dot markers
- googly eyes

Before class form a snake for each preschooler by cutting a spiral pattern in a paper plate. Shape the center to be a snake's head. The final product should resemble a coiled snake. Guide preschoolers to use dot markers and googly eyes to decorate their snakes.

SAY • Snakes are sometimes called *serpents*. The serpents you made look fun and happy. A serpent is in our Bible story today, but this serpent was not fun and happy. He pretended to be fun and happy, but he was mean and sneaky instead. The serpent tricked Adam and Eve into disobeying God. We will find out how in our Bible story today.

Transition to Bible study

- countdown video (optional)

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Instruct children to wait as you call them one at a time to the Bible study area. Compliment them on being obedient.

Large Group LEADER

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Introduce the Bible story

Discuss how preschoolers in your class are similar. Say things like, "Karis and Luke both have red hair" or "Gideon and Elijah both like trains."

SAY • One thing that is the same for everyone is that we all do wrong things. In our Bible story today, we will hear about the first time someone did a wrong thing. It changed the world forever.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- "Sin Entered the World" video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Open your Bible to Genesis 3.

SAY • The Bible is the most important book because it has God's words in it. Every story in the Bible really happened. Today's Bible story comes from Genesis, the very first book of the Bible.

Show the Bible story video "Sin Entered the World," or tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided. Use the bolded version for younger preschoolers.

Talk about the Bible story

- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

SAY • Adam and Eve broke God's rule. **Adam and Eve sinned.** God did not stop loving Adam and Eve, but God's beautiful world now had something ugly in it—sin. Everyone born after Adam and Eve had

sinned, but God promised to send someone to rescue people from sin and bring them back to Him.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or big story circle as you ask the following review questions:

1. How many rules did God give Adam and Eve? (*one*)
2. Who tricked Eve? (*the serpent*)
3. Did Adam and Eve obey God's rule? (*no*)
4. What did Adam and Eve do when they heard God walking in the garden? (*They hid.*)
5. What did God do after Adam and Eve sinned? (*He made clothes for them out of animal skins and sent them out of the garden.*)

Big picture question

SAY • Our new big picture question is, ***What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law.*** God's law means God's rules. Adam and Eve broke the rule God gave them. When we break God's rules, we sin. We sin when we *do* the things God says *do not do*. We also sin when we *do not do* the things God says *to do*.

- Big Picture Question Poster

Key passage

Open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 8:6. Read the key passage aloud several times. Sing together the key passage song, "There Is Only One."

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

SAY • In our Bible story, God promised someone would come to get rid of the serpent. That someone is Jesus! Our key passage says Jesus is the Lord. Jesus is the only One who can take away sin.

Transition to small groups

Small Group ACTIVITIES

SESSION TITLE: Sin Entered the World
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KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6
BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law.

Play hide-and-seek



Play a simple game of hide-and-seek. Choose one child to close her eyes and count to 10 while the other children find safe places to hide. After the child counts to 10, she may find her hidden friends. Each friend she finds may help her find other hidden friends. Choose another child to count and play again.

SAY • In our Bible story today, Adam and Eve hid in the trees when they heard God walking in the garden. Do you think God really did not know where Adam and Eve were? God knows everything. God knew **Adam and Eve sinned.** God still loved them and promised that someone from Eve's family would come to take away sin.

Repair paper

- paper
- tape
- glue

Provide a sheet of paper for each preschooler. Invite preschoolers to tear their paper into pieces. Then instruct them to make their paper like it was before they tore it. Provide tape and glue for them to use.

SAY • You did a good job putting your papers back together, but they do not look the same as they did when they were new. When God created the world

and people, everything was beautiful and happy. Everything changed after **Adam and Eve sinned.** Bad things happened. Life became painful and work became hard. Adam and Eve were not close to God like before. Every person born after Adam and Eve is a sinner. We all choose to sin. God promised that one day He would send someone to rescue people from sin and make everything like new.

Make up silly rules



Invite preschoolers to make up their own rules. Encourage creativity. Make up your own silly rules to get preschoolers thinking. Examples of rules include "Eat pizza at every meal. Jump up and down on the bed every morning. Wear your clothes backward on Saturdays."

SAY • Did God give Adam and Eve a rule because He wanted to be mean? No, God is always good. God's rules are never silly. God gives rules because He loves us and knows what is best for us. God loved Adam and Eve and gave them a rule to protect them, but Adam and Eve broke God's rule. **Adam and Eve sinned.** God knew what would happen when Adam and Eve ate the fruit from that tree, and God promised that someone would come from Eve's family to make everything right again.

Sew fig leaves

- "Fig Leaf Pattern" printable
- green heavyweight paper or craft foam
- hole punch
- yarn
- tape

Prior to class, cut fig leaf shapes out of green heavyweight paper or craft foam. Use "Fig Leaf Pattern" printable as a guide. Punch holes around the edge of the fig leaves. Cut yarn into 18-inch lengths and secure the ends with tape. Demonstrate how preschoolers may use the yarn to

"sew" the fig leaves by lacing it through the holes. Allow preschoolers to sew fig leaves as time allows.

SAY • After ***Adam and Eve sinned***, they tried to cover themselves by sewing fig leaves together. Fig leaves do not make good clothes. God did not stop loving Adam and Eve, and He made them good clothes out of animal skins. God knew just what Adam and Eve needed. He also knew they needed someone to rescue them from sin. He had a plan to send someone very special to do that—His very own Son, Jesus.

Examine decay

- fresh fruit
- rotten or bruised fruit
- healthy leaves or plants
- decaying leaves or plants

Prior to class, gather fresh fruit, plants, and leaves along with their decaying counterparts. Allow preschoolers to examine the differences between the items. Point out that the decaying items used to look like the healthy items. Explain that, as time goes on, things get old and die.

SAY • In today's Bible story, God told Adam and Eve that if they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they would die. **Adam and Eve sinned** and ate from the tree. Adam and Eve did not die right away, but their bodies started wearing out and getting old. So did everything else God made.

• Plants and leaves turn brown. Food goes bad and tastes yucky. People get sick and old. All these things happen because **Adam and Eve sinned,** but God promised to send His Son, Jesus, to rescue the world from sin and to make things right again.

Snack

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- snack food
- paper cups and napkins

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Guide preschoolers to clean their areas. Take a restroom break and wash hands. Gather preschoolers for snack time. Thank God for the snack.

Serve sliced fruit such as apples, oranges, and bananas. Tell children they may have any of the fruit they want except for the bananas. Talk about how God said Adam and Eve could eat from any tree in the garden except for one.

Remind children that Adam and Eve had plenty of choices, but the serpent tricked them into wanting what God said they could not have. Ask children if it is hard to not eat the bananas. Explain that since Adam and Eve sinned, all people are sinners. Sin makes us want to do what is wrong. God promised to send Jesus to rescue people from sin and bring them back to God.

Transition

- Journal Page printable, 1 per child
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- books and puzzles
- crayons
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschool*

When a preschooler finishes his snack, guide him to throw away any trash. He may select a book or puzzle to examine, play quietly with play dough or a favorite toy, or color the Bible story coloring page.

Offer the journal page and invite preschoolers to draw a picture of a tree. Pray for the preschoolers.

SAY • Thank You, God, that You never stop loving us even when we do bad things. Before **Adam and Eve sinned,** You had a plan to rescue Your people. Help us to remember how much You love us, and help us not to sin but to obey Your rules. We love You. Amen!

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their preschooler enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

Journal Page

God the Creator

Key Passage: 1 Corinthians 8:6

Big Picture Questions: Why did God create the world? God created the world for His glory.
What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law.

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

Session 2: God Created People
Genesis 1:26-2:25
God created people in His own image.

Session 3: Sin Entered the World
Genesis 3:1-24
Adam and Eve sinned.

Session 4: Cain and Abel
Genesis 4:1-16,25-26
God punished Cain for his sin.

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

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



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There is but one God, the Father ... and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 8:6



There is but one God, the Father ... and one Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 8:6



There is one God, the Father ... and there is one Lord, Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 8:6



There is one God, the Father ... and one Lord, Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 8:6



Adam and Eve sinned.





Fruit Tree

INSTRUCTIONS: Draw an *X* over each piece of fruit.



DOWNLOAD THE TGP FAMILY APP

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law.

BIBLE STORY:
SIN ENTERED THE WORLD

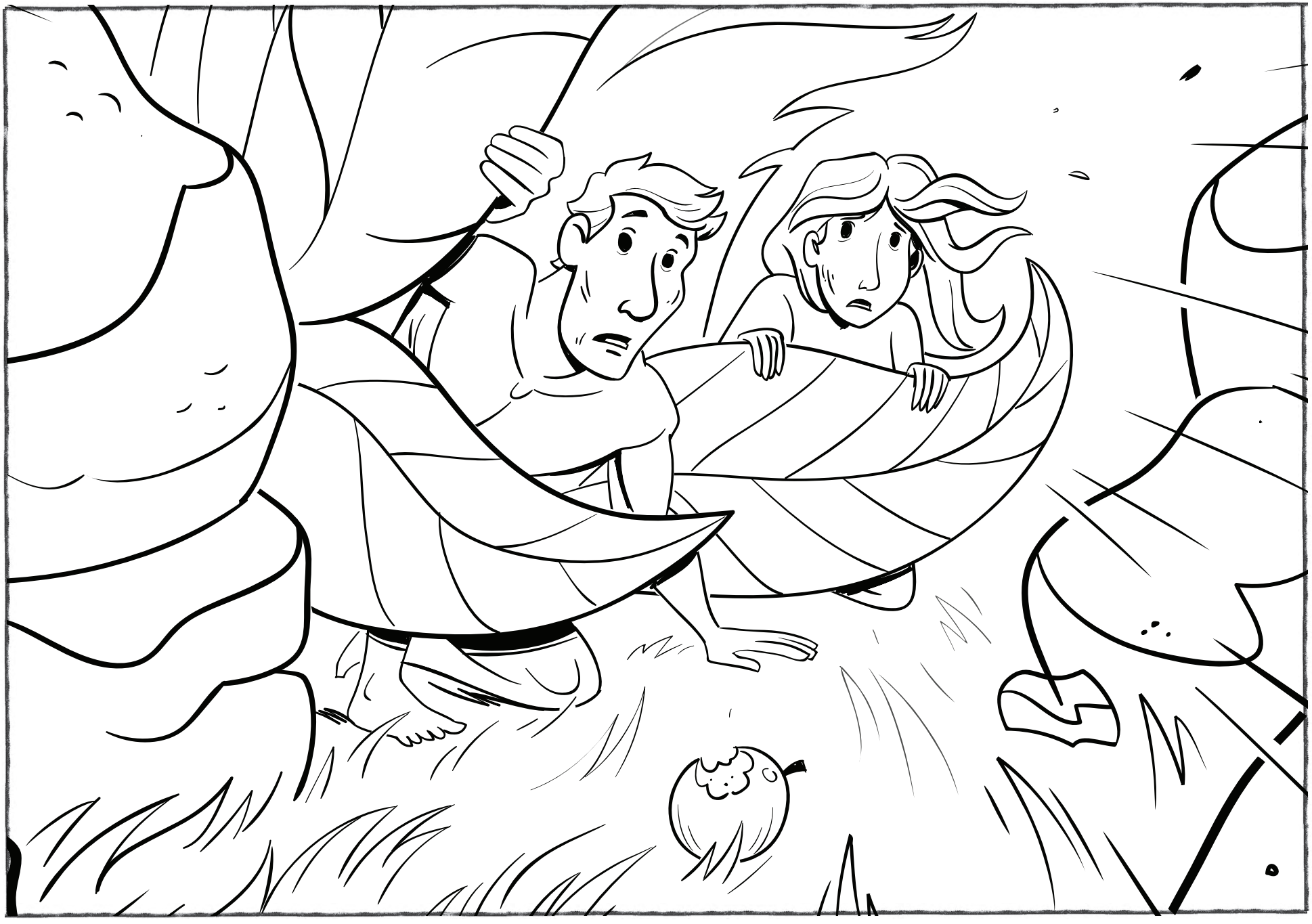
- God gave Adam and Eve one rule.
- The serpent tricked Eve, and she and Adam broke God's rule.
- Everything was different after Adam and Eve sinned.
- God promised someone would come from Eve's family to take away sin.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- God gave Adam and Eve a rule. What are some rules in our home? Why do we have them?
- Are rules good or bad?
- How was the world different after Adam and Eve sinned? (*Life was painful. Work was hard. Adam and Eve were not close to God anymore. God sent Adam and Eve out of the garden.*)

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

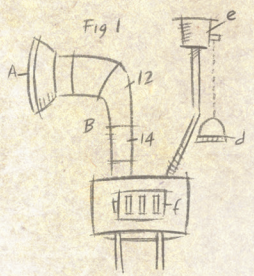
- Pray as a family that God would help each family member to recognize their sin and their need for a Savior.



Why did God create the world?

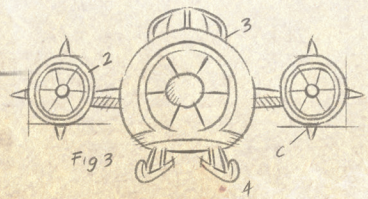


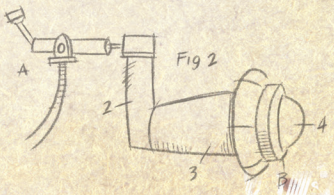
Why did God create the world?

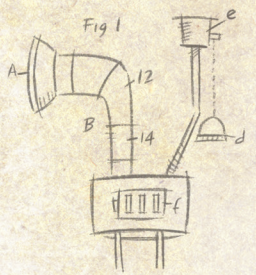




God created the world for His Glory.

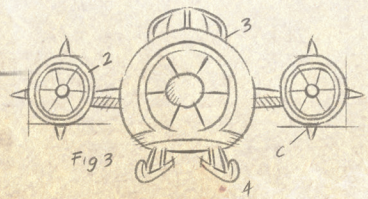


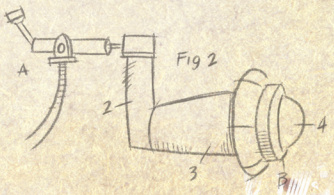




What is sin?



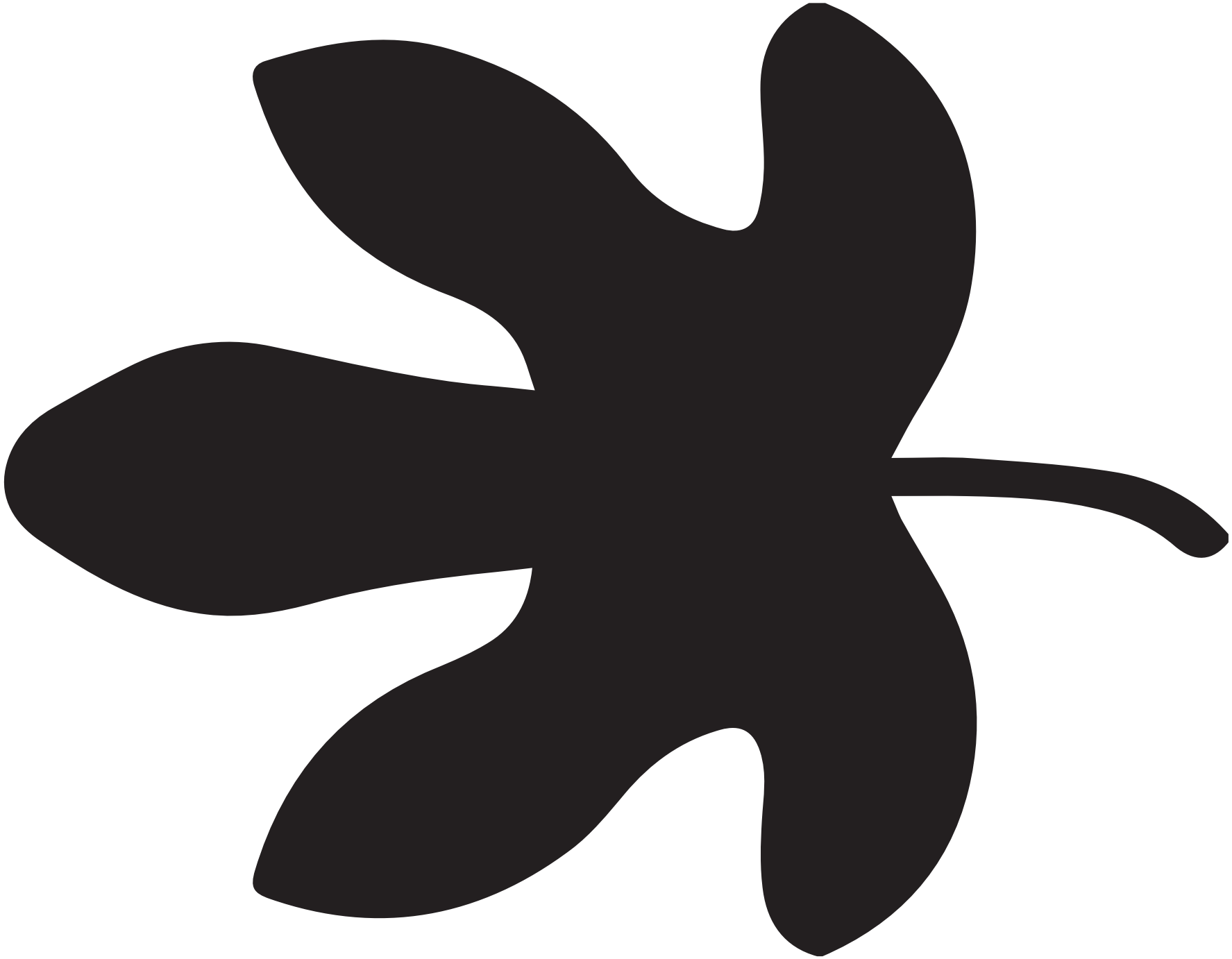




What is sin?

Sin is breaking God's law.





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Instructions: Print and cut out the template. Use as directed in the leader/worship guide.