

God's Plan: 2 BE WITH US!

Bible Story

The Sin Separation

Genesis 2:8–9, 15–17; 3:1–24

What happens
when I disobey
God?

Bible Verse

"[A]ll have sinned and are deprived of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

Sin separates
you from God.

Session Goals

1. PARTICIPATE in telling the story of Adam and Eve.
2. IDENTIFY things that can happen because of sin.
3. ASK God for help to follow his commandments.
4. CHOOSE to live as a member of God's family.

Spark Principle— Cause & Effect

Whatever we do (a cause) has a result (an effect).
Whenever we sin, the effect is separation from God.



Broken Heart

A broken heart has long stood for heartache caused by physical or emotional separation. When Adam and Eve sinned, the result was their separation from God—physical, emotional and spiritual. This separation results when we sin, too. The heartache caused by this separation is felt by God and by us as well.



Heart Prep

Although Adam and Eve were created without sin, God gave them the power to choose between right and wrong. They each had a free will. God placed them in a perfect place, the Garden of Eden, and told them they had the freedom and use of the whole garden, except for one thing. God said, "You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and evil. From that tree you shall not eat; when you eat from it you shall die" (Genesis 2:17).

The temptation of Eve began when the serpent put in Eve's heart the wicked, terrible thought that something other than God's plan was best. He wanted to make Eve question God's goodness and to shake her simple faith in God's love.

All people since the fall, without respect to position or class, have been sinners before God. "Sin entered the world because one man sinned. And death came because of sin. Everyone sinned, so death came to all people." (Romans 5:12). The entire nature of people has been brought under the condemnation and curse of sin. We must have a Savior.

In the same chapter that records this story of sin is the promise of victory over it. Read Genesis 3:15, for here a Redeemer is promised! The Chief Engineer of heaven was working out all of this plan before the world's foundation and long before people sinned or realized their need. The cross of Calvary stands so related to all the ages that the sacrifice of Jesus Christ once and for all (1 Peter 3:18) fulfilled the promise of a Redeemer and provided salvation to all who believe since the very fall of Adam and Eve.

Daily Recap

At the end of each session, take time to reflect on what happened. Use these questions as a guide:

- ① What was your greatest struggle today? How did you respond?
- ① Thank God for His desire to be with you! Invite Him to prepare the hearts of the kids to respond to their need to be with Him.
- ① Pray, asking God to help each child in your group understand His love this week.

Materials

Optional Bible Story materials listed on page 18.

Bibles



Lab Journal



Session 2 Daily Plan Pennant



Session 2 Bible Story Poster from Bible Teaching Poster Pack



light corn syrup



red and blue food coloring



spoon



water in a clear glass



baby oil



3 more clear drinking glasses



fizzing antacid tablet



markers



Session 2
Grades 3 and 4

Tell the Bible Story

Preparation: Mark Genesis 2 and 3 in children's Bibles. (Optional: Use Post-it Notes to mark Bibles.) If Bibles are not available for all children, mark your Bible and ask volunteers to read verses as indicated in the story.

Pour some corn syrup into one glass, add red food coloring and stir to make syrup red. To glass of water, add blue food coloring and stir to make a very dark blue. Place corn syrup glass, water glass, baby oil and remaining empty glasses where you will lead the Story Starter activity.

Story Starter

Welcome back to SonSpark Labs! Yesterday we discovered a little about God's amazing law of gravity. Today we're going to have fun with another law in God's universe that we see around us every day. It's called "cause and effect." That means that whatever we do (a cause) has a result (an effect). Let's see if we can cause some interesting effects!

Fill one of the empty glasses about $\frac{1}{4}$ full of the colored water. Next I'm going to make a cause by pouring some oil on top of this water. What do you think the effect will be? Volunteers respond. Pour baby oil down the inside of the glass to cover colored water, leaving about an inch (2.5 cm) of room at the top. The effect is that the oil sits on top of the water. Oil is less dense than water. When a liquid is less dense than another, it will sit on top of the other liquid.

Hold up fizzing antacid tablet. This is an antacid tablet. People take antacids when they have stomach problems. What do you think the effect



will be if I drop it into our water and oil mixture? Volunteers respond. Break antacid tablet in half, and drop both pieces into the glass.

The antacid makes bubbles of carbon dioxide. As the bubbles rise, they carry some of the colored water with them. When the bubbles reach the surface, they pop. Then the colored water sinks back to the bottom. Was this the effect you expected? Volunteers respond.

Yesterday we heard about how God created the world. Pour some baby oil into the remaining empty glass. Let's say that the clear oil in this glass represents God. When God created the world, it was perfect. But the world isn't perfect now. In today's Bible story, we'll discover why the world is no longer perfect.

The Sin Separation

Genesis 2:8–9, 15–17; 3:1–24

The Creation

The Garden of Eden was a very special spot in God's perfect creation. God made all kinds of trees grow there. They were beautiful to look at and full of delicious fruit to eat. God placed Adam and Eve in the garden to take care of it and enjoy it. **Hold up "Hooray" sign and lead children to say, "Hooray!"**

We don't know how long Adam and Eve lived happily in the Garden of Eden. We do know they

Bring the Bible Story to Life!

On separate sheets of construction paper, write the words, "Hooray!" "Oh no!" and "Hiss." Before telling the story, practice holding up the signs and leading children to say the word(s) written on them or to hiss for "Hiss." As you tell the story, hold up the appropriate sign and lead children as indicated by the blue text in the story.

talked with God face-to-face every day in the cool of the evening, just as we talk with our families and our friends. **Hold up "Hooray" sign. Children say, "Hooray!"** Let's use red corn syrup to represent Adam and Eve. Carefully pour the red corn syrup down the inside of the glass holding the oil. Corn syrup will slide under the oil to form a distinct layer. Show glass so everyone sees the layers. Adam and Eve loved God and enjoyed being close friends with Him.

We also know that Adam and Eve were free to eat from every tree that was in the garden—except for one. **Let's find out about that tree in Genesis 2:16–17.** They could not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If they did eat the fruit, they would die. **Hold up "Oh no!" sign. Children say, "Oh no!"**

But this wasn't a hard rule to follow. God gave Adam and Eve LOTS of trees and TONS of fruit—and only ONE rule. Life in the garden was perfect. **Hold up "Hooray!" sign. Children say, "Hooray!"** But one day, trouble came to their paradise. **Hold up "Oh no!" sign. Children say, "Oh no!"**

The Cause

It all began with a question. A serpent, the cleverest wild animal God had created, spoke to Eve. **Hold up "Hiss" sign. Children hiss.** This was really God's enemy, Satan, who had taken the form of the serpent. We don't know what the serpent looked like or how he spoke, but we do know that his words put Eve to the most important test of all time.

"Did God REALLY say that you couldn't eat from EVERY tree in the garden?" the serpent slyly asked. **Hold up "Hiss" sign. Children hiss. How did Eve answer him? We can read her response in Genesis 3:2–3.**

"God said we could eat any of the fruit in the garden, except the fruit from this tree. If I eat this fruit, I will die!" Eve said.

"This fruit won't make you die!" the serpent continued. "It will make you WISE. You will be like God!" **Hold up "Hiss" sign. Children hiss.**

Eve MUST have wondered what was true. God had said one thing about the tree, but the serpent was saying exactly the opposite. Whose words were true and whose were false? Whom should she believe? **Hold up "Oh no!" sign. Children say, "Oh no!"** What do you think Eve should do?

Eve looked at the fruit. It WAS beautiful. And it WOULD be wonderful to be wise like God. She reached out her hand, took the fruit and bit into it. **Hold up "Oh no!" sign. Children say, "Oh no!"** She handed it to Adam, and he bit into it as well. **Hold up "Oh no!" sign. Children say, "Oh no!"** Suddenly, they both knew that they had chosen to do something terribly, terribly wrong.

The Effect

Soon, Adam and Eve heard God walking in the garden. **Read Genesis 3:8 to find out what they did next.** Adam and Eve hid! For the first time in their lives, Adam and Eve didn't want to talk with God. Something had come between them. **Hold up "Oh no!" sign. Children say, "Oh no!"** Watch our experiment. Carefully pour blue water down the inside of the glass holding oil and corn syrup. The water will slip between the two existing layers. Show glass.

When God asked Adam what had happened, Adam blamed Eve. "The woman You put here with me gave me the fruit and I ate it."



Skit Option

As a fun alternative or supplement to this Bible story, ask leaders, youth helpers or other volunteers to perform "The Savior" Bible story skit in *ShowTime! Assemblies*.

Eve blamed the serpent. "The serpent tricked me and I ate," she explained. But no excuse could change the truth: they both had chosen to disobey God.

Hold up "Oh no!" sign. Children say, "Oh no!"

Choosing to do wrong is called "sinning." It was sin that had come between Adam and Eve and God. *Show layers in glass again. This blue layer represents sin. In the same way the blue layer came between the red layer and the clear layer, sin separates us from God.*

Then Adam and Eve had to leave the beautiful home God had created to share with them.

Hold up "Oh no!" sign and lead children to say, "Oh no!" They could no longer talk to God face-to-face. Because of their sin, Adam and Eve would have troubles that they had never known before—sadness and hard work and pain. They would grow old and they would die, just as God had warned them. The awful effects of sin didn't stop with Adam and Eve. From that day on, everyone has chosen to sin. And that sin separates us from God. **Hold up "Oh no!" sign and lead children to say, "Oh no!"**

Conclusion

Our Daily Plan is "God's Plan: 2 BE WITH Us!" But something separates us from God and keeps us from being with Him. What is that something? (Sin.) Satan talked Eve into sinning because he wanted to stop God's plan. But Satan couldn't do it. NOTHING and NO ONE can ever stop God's

plan! Adam and Eve's sin couldn't stop God's plan and neither can your sin. God's awesome plan has been there from the beginning of everything. And God's awesome plan has always included YOU!

Our Scripture verse for today, Romans 3:23, says, "[A]ll have sinned and are deprived of the glory of God." **EVERYONE** has sinned! That means you and me and everyone here has sinned—even the priest of our parish, our friends and everyone in our family. Everyone has sinned.

This sin separates us from God. It's like when you have a fight with your best friend. You might see your friend every day, but you don't feel close anymore. You don't joke and play together. **Sin doesn't take God AWAY. God is always with us. But when we sin, we don't feel close to Him.**



St. Michael the Archangel lived with God in heaven with the other angels. He was the leader of God's army. When the Devil tried to go against God St. Michael defended heaven and kicked the Devil out. When we struggle with doing the right thing or following God's commandments we can pray for St. Michael to help us kick the Devil out of our lives. **(Adapted from Michael the Archangel: Protector of God's People by Barbara Yoffie © 2014 Liguori Publications).**

Prayer

God can help us be strong and not do wrong things. Let's pray and ask for His help. Allow a few moments for children to pray silently. Then close prayer, **Thank You, God, for helping us do good things and not sin. We love You and want to be with You every day! In Jesus' name, amen.**

Catechetical Connection: Making a mistake is not the same as sinning. It's a sin to do something mean or break God's commandments on purpose. But part of growing closer to God is asking for forgiveness. We can tell people we hurt "I'm sorry," tell God we're sorry in prayer, and receive a special kind of forgiveness through the sacrament of Reconciliation. **(Adapted from Handbook for Today's Catholic Children, by Francine O'Connor © Liguori Publications).**

Teaching Tip

Keep the glass of liquid layers for the Session 4 Bible Story. Or plan to recreate it.



Apply the Bible Story

Bible Story Review

To review the Bible Story, lead children to complete “What Happens When I Do Wrong Things?” activity on page 6 of the *Lab Journal*. As children work, ask these questions to guide conversation:

- What instructions did God give Adam and Eve about what they could eat? (They could eat from any tree, except one—the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.)
- What did God say would happen if they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? (They would die.)
- One result of Adam and Eve’s disobedience to God is that now sin is in the world. Who sins? (Everyone.)
- What do you think might have happened if Eve had obeyed God?

The question in today’s Q&A is “What happens when I disobey God?” After hearing our story, how would you answer that question? Volunteers respond. The Q&A answer is that “Sin separates you from God.” Why is it important to know that sin separates us from God? Volunteers respond. Adam and Eve were close with God before they sinned. Now sin is a part of the world God created to be perfect. Each of us sins, and we need God’s forgiveness to be close with Him.

Active Review

Children stand in a circle, begin clapping in rhythm and then count off aloud around the circle. Whenever someone comes to a number containing a three or a seven, that child answers one of the questions above or chooses a volunteer to answer. Continue counting where children left off, and change the motion (foot tap, finger snap, jump, etc.) each time. (Note: If the same children keep answering, choose different numbers.)

God’s Plan for Me

(Life Application)

Today’s Scripture verse is Romans 3:23. Volunteer reads verse aloud from Bible. In this verse, God’s glory means that God is perfect. What do we mean when we say someone or something doesn’t measure up? (It isn’t good enough.) What does “[all] are deprived of God’s glory” mean? (We aren’t perfect as God is.)

Children complete “The Sin Effect” activity on page 7 of the *Lab Journal*. Ask questions such as these:

- According to our verse, who has sinned and doesn’t measure up to God’s glory? (Everyone.)
- What is sin? (When we disobey God.)
- What are some wrong things kids your age do? (Cheat on a test. Argue with friends. Not do chores. Be mean to brother or sister.)
- What can happen as a result of these wrong things, or sins? (Get in trouble at school. Not be able to play with friends. Get grounded or have a time-out.)

What part of God’s plan are we talking about today? Pause for children to respond, “2 BE WITH Us!” Today we’re discovering that God wants to be with us. When we do something wrong to someone, the sin causes problems between us—it separates us. Even though God loves us, the wrong things we do separate us from Him.

Hold up Session 2 Daily Plan Pennant. The broken heart can remind us of this separation. Being separated from God is like having a broken heart. And our sin breaks God’s heart, too.

But God has always had a plan to mend our broken hearts so that we don’t have to stay apart from Him. His plan is all about Jesus—GP4U = J! Every day at SonSpark Labs, we’re going to discover more about His amazing plan.