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Sunday School Lesson

TOPIC:

“WHEN SIN ENTERED IN”

Genesis 3:1-15

VERSE DISCOVERY: Genesis 3:1-15 (KJV, Public Domain)

Prepare

- What do you think about the world we live in today? Does the destruction of places and people seem overwhelmingly sorrowful? What if we could turn the clock back and go back before there was anything wrong in the world? We can't, but hopefully we can learn from it to gain a better tomorrow.
- Read through chapters 1 and 2 as a quick refresher on the Creation story to recap the perfection and the good that God speaks over all He made. Everything was perfect. There was nothing that would hurt or disappoint. That is until sin entered in. Draw a chart on a board or poster with **Then** written on one side and **Now** written on the other. Ask student for some differences and write them down. Ask them which would they prefer to live in? Supposing their answer to be Eden, paradise, ask them what would it take to us to get to heaven, the place where we can finally experience that beauty of God's original design? What is something that can keep them out of heaven? Supposing the answer to be sin, follow through with one of the suggested object lessons below or another like it before moving into the lesson.
- Sin object lesson (pick from list on site or search for one you like better).

Explore – Full Lesson Available on pages 5-11

Note: If you are teaching children, this lesson lends itself well to the use of puppets to help tell the story. Don't have puppets or are in a pinch for time, simply print out pictures of Adam, Eve, snake from online onto cardstock or glue onto construction paper. Attach each character or object to craft sticks and there you have craft stick puppets. You can also print out pictures of trees or a garden to place them in or to hide behind. The possibilities are endless.

Verses 1-7

Banished. Kicked out. Made to leave Eden forever. That's how this story ends. But, it all started with a little questioning from the tempter mixed with a little doubt from the human heart which led the first man and the first woman to do life their own way. To disobey God's one commandment for them and choose to listen to the enemy instead.

The sly serpent spoke (serpent pic or puppet), and instead of walking away, Eve (pic or puppet) stood around and listened to what he had to say. His questions and suggestions seemed somewhat reasonable to her. After all, the tree did look good. The fruit that grew on it looked promising. The desire for the wisdom it was told to have was too much to deny the “I got to have it,” feelings that were welling up in her wanted it. And, although she knew the command to not eat of that special tree in the midst of the garden (tree pic), after pondering everything, she made it up in her mind that it was okay to yield to her cravings. It was okay to disobey God. Deceived by the serpent, she took the forbidden fruit and she ate it (picture of an apple or fruit).

After partaking in the sin of disobedience for herself, she then offered the same choice to her husband and Adam sinned, too. With eyes wide opened (surprised face or big glasses would be great in illustrating this), they felt all that was wrong in their disobedience to God. With their eyes that could see and know what they wish they couldn't. They now knew shame and guilt for not listening to the command of God. Now, they knew they were naked.

Verses 8-15

As a result of their sin, everything changed for them and for us forever. Life in paradise would never be the same. Sin entered in and destroyed their peace, their world, and their relationship with God (you can illustrate this by cutting up a picture of a garden to demonstrate the brokenness sin did).

When they heard God's voice on that dreadful day, their only response was to hide. When wrong is found in one's heart, they try to hide. But, as Jonah found out later in the Bible, there is nowhere one can go to hide from God and there is nothing in our hearts that He doesn't already know about. And, although God questioned Adam, “*Where art thou?*” He already knew. God knew what Adam and Eve had done. He knew where they were hiding. He knew the slyness of the serpent. He knew that there would now be consequences people had to face as a result of their sin.

Getting to the bottom of the story, God questioned everyone involved. Not because He didn't know, but perhaps He wanted them to think and take responsibility for their actions.

Alas, they didn't. When Adam and Eve were questioned as to why they disobeyed God and sinned, each put the blame on someone or something else instead of confessing their own wrongs.

That moment of sin stripped humanity of the privileges it received before the Fall. Now they would know pain, sweat, tears, hard work, stress – things that weren't present before. Their world has been turned upside down as a result of sin. They were evicted from paradise and lost everything they once knew.

Activities

- If you could go back into history and talk to Adam and Eve about sin and the choices they make, what advice would you give them? Thinking on Adam and Eve's choices, how can their story help us in the choices we make? Jot ideas on the journal pages provided on wordforlifesays.com.
- Younger students can draw a picture of Adam and Eve and add it to the **Draw the Scene** section or do the **Activity Sheet** where they list ways that can help us to remember to obey God.
- Younger students can make the **Broken by Sin** people puzzle (found on wordforlifesays.com). Simply print out on cardstock the people template and decorate. Cut the people into puzzle pieces to demonstrate the brokenness that sins bring. Remember to bring plastic sandwich bags for students to take their puzzles home in.
- Taking a cue from our **Explore** section (above), you can print out pictures of Adam, Eve, serpent, etc. onto cardstock or glue to construction paper. Attach to craft sticks and your students have their own puppets to go with today's lesson.
- Alternate activity sheets can be found on wordforlifesays.com such as memory verses, word search, and other printable pages.

Review

- Commit to memory the base verse from the lesson: ***“Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden,” Genesis 3:8.***
- Fill out the review sheet provided (page 12)

Life

Above all, we want our hearts to be right with God. Therefore, the most important life lesson we can take away from this is to seek spiritual help from a pastor or leader if you have any concerns or questions. Thankfully, the Fall in the garden wasn't the end of the story. Restoration can be found for all those who turn to Jesus Christ with a repentant heart.

Keep your journal sheets in mind when dealing with difficult things that may come your way this week. Pray, as the psalmist, that the Lord will help solidify His word in our hearts that we might choose to do right, and not sin.

If you have time, read and review Psalm 51.

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“WHEN SIN ENTERED IN”

Genesis 3:1-15

VERSE DISCOVERY: Genesis 3:1-15 (KJV, Public Domain)

Failure is something I, as well as all humanity, have grappled with throughout their life. Whether you want to give it a cute name like “fumbling the ball,” or call it as it is – “missing the mark,” they all declare the same thing in the end – I messed up. I have sinned.

Sin unfortunately, is something a lot of people don’t pay attention to, have become desensitized to, or simply brush off with no thought of confession or consequences. Whereas, others, it brings them to their knees in humility seeking reconciliation with God and man.

Sin, and the effects of sin is something every human will encounter because once sin entered the world it contaminated everything and everyone. The paradise of what was will be shut away from humanity till the saved souls experience it one day in eternity.

“By one man sin entered into the world,” (Romans 5:12), and this lesson covers the events surrounding that dreadful day which has become known as the Fall; the day when sin entered in.

THE FALL

Genesis 3:1-7 “Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the

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eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.”

God has, from the beginning, given a precious gift to the man He created: the gift of free will. And, from the beginning, it has been man’s responsibility to use it in a just and righteous way. With that, we see the man has had the ability to choose to do right or to choose to do wrong. In these verses, the waters of that free will have been tested, and as a result, humanity succumbed to temptation and sin entered the world.

The serpent who appears in the story has become synonymous to us today and throughout the Bible as the devil or Satan. Although in the form of a creature which is being used by the devil, this adversary of old (see Revelation 12:9) has come on the scene for one purpose – to disrupt the good that God created. To work against Him in rebellion any way he can.

And to do that, he had to get to the mind of His beloved creature, man, by casting doubt about God. The very nature of **the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field**. That subtilty speaks of his cunningness. Where a cunning character is in this respect, there is deception and falsehood with the craftiness to work both. Therefore, whatever he says cannot be trusted and unfortunately for Eve, she and Adam find out this sad truth the hard way and a little too late.

Questioning the woman, as if they had already been engaged in an active dialogue, but weren’t, he asked, **Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?** This type of questioning lives up to the nature of this tempter. It cast doubt where doubt probably wasn’t once before. It asks one to focus a little harder on the forbidden object when quite possibly, it wasn’t the focus before. A hands-off approach was alright with her until one question made her rethink the truth of what was.

Not fully comprehending or even slightly knowing of his deception, and the deceit behind his inquiry, Eve engaged fully into conversation with the serpent when she responded. She told him what they may and may not eat.

God supplied plenty for them. Remember, man was the last of God’s creation and God had everything in order to properly sustain and fulfill all that they would need. With Eden bringing to mind a picture of paradise, in the lushness of what was available to them, it would be more than enough that they had at their disposal to use and enjoy.

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We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden. Notice the s on the world trees, making them plural. Plural choices were available to them. Plural delicacies abounded in the garden. There were multiple things to eat and choose from with only one being prohibited from them.

That *one* came with restrictions. That *one* came with the only rule they had to follow to be obedient to God: **But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.** This she knew. Thus far, this is what she abided by.

Now, the enemy works in his cunning ways to get her to do the very thing that **God hath said** not to do. First, he lied and convinced her the consequences aren't as serious as she had been led to believe. Once that kind of thinking enters in and one begins to mull over the idea, it becomes easier to shirk the responsibility of those consequences with total disregard. He told her, **Ye shall not surely die.**

Note: Notice the conflict here in what God says versus what the serpent/devil says. God's Word is tried, true, and solid. God's Word is always right, and never flawed or wrong (Proverbs 30:5). God's Word is everlasting, and it is fixed in heaven (Psalm 119:89). Anything that speaks against what God says, then and now, and does not line up with His Word, is not of God, and it's wrong. It's of the devil.

Eve had a choice to make. Who was she going to listen to?

Secondly, he planted his own seeds in that garden. He planted seeds of doubt. Today, we know the Bible tells us, "No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly," (Psalm 84:11). But here, as he presented this "option" to go outside of the will of God, he did so by making it seem that God was holding out on them. **For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods.**

The more she listened and gave space to the serpent's sly words, the more that option to sin looked enticing to her. Of course, right then and there she may not have seen it as sin, but anything that takes one out of the will of God, we can rest assured, is sin, no matter what it "looks like."

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When she looked at that forbidden tree she saw it had everything she wanted. It was **good for food, pleasant to the eyes, and to be desired to make one wise**. Or, as John so eloquently wrote: *“the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life,”* (1 John 2:16).

And, because it had everything she desired, the Bible tells us she **did eat**. She sinned. She made up in her mind to go her own way; to throw off what God said and listen to the serpent (compare James 1:14-15).

She then gave it to her **husband, and he did eat**, too. Adam sinned, and he did so willfully (compare 1 Timothy 2:14). He wasn't deceived as Eve was and with their choices made, sin has entered the world and changed it forever (compare Romans 5:19).

Now, **the eyes of them both were opened**. Now, they saw things as they never had before, and they didn't like what they saw. Not only did they now know what **evil** in this respect when previously all they knew was **good**; but now they knew shame, guilt, and the wrongs that came with it. Now, they knew they were **naked**, and they tried to cover the nakedness by sewing **fig leaves** together.

Oh, how I can imagine, they probably wished they could undo it all; that things could go back to the way they were. But, they couldn't, and the consequences of the Fall would now come.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE FALL

Genesis 3:8-15 “And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt

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thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”

In their state of innocence, before their sin, they had intimate fellowship with God. So, when they **heard** His **voice**, they were familiar with His **presence**. Only this time, it wasn't as welcoming as it once was. This time, there was trepidation involved. There were fear and uneasiness where there wasn't before. This time, His presence exposed their shame, so they **hid themselves**. Sin and guilt marred everything!

What does hiding imply? To hide means there is something that one does not want uncovered. There is something that one does not want to be revealed. They want to hide their wrong; they want to hide their sin from God **amongst the trees** – but, alas, this attempt is futile.

So, God called out, **Where art thou?** Our God is omnipresent, which basically means He is everywhere at the same time (see Psalm 139:7-10). And, our God is omniscient, which means He knows everything that's going on from the inside out. Psalm 44:21 says that He even knows *“the secrets of the heart.”* With that being said, God knew exactly where Adam was and what was going on. Trees could not hide man's sin. Later in history, Jonah too would find out the impossible feat of trying to hide from an all-seeing, all-knowing God. Everything is opened to God; everything is exposed. There is nothing hid from Him (see Hebrews 4:13).

I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.”

Matched against the presence of God, sin will make man tremble and be **afraid**. God is holy, and His people are called to be holy (1 Peter 1:16). But, when the unholy nature of man faces God, it tries to hide. I imagine, previously the voice of God was a comfort to Adam. Here, in the knowledge of his sin, fear has taken over. Sin took away peace and opened the door for all other opposing emotions.

Who told thee thou wast naked? Questions are designed for extracting information from an individual and securing an answer. Once again, God knew the answer, but Adam had to fully comprehend what he had done. Questioning will cause Adam to look inside himself for an answer; a way to reply. *“How do I answer? I would have to admit this and that.”*

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Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? In other words, “*Have you disobeyed Me?*” is what God was asking. Adam and Eve were given one rule to follow. One rule; one command. Did they disregard that command?

God’s word is His commands. What God says outranks all else. One’s real intimacy with God is revealed in how well they keep His commandments. 1 John 2:3 says, “*And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.*” The psalmist said, “*Thy word I have hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee,*” (Psalm 119:11). Hiding God’s word in one’s heart will help them not to have to hide behind trees in shame later.

And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave of the tree, and I did eat. In the previous chapter, she was “*bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh,*” (Genesis 2:23). She was the one made specifically for him. Here, there is an almost disdainful ire about him when he talks about **that woman whom thou gavest to me**. What intimacy they once shared, sin has now caused a rift in their relationship, hence the beginning of the blame game.

Note: In speaking of the blame game, notice also how Adam seemed to signify too or hint at that it was God’s fault because He is the one who gave her the woman. Sin ruins relationships with God and with people.

And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? As a parent lining children up to find out who broke the lamp, God is going down the line, questioning everyone involved. The woman’s response was, **the serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.** Through that one bite of forbidden fruit knowledge was gained, and with that came the realization that she had been deceived or **beguiled**. Some say hindsight has 20/20 vision. But, the Bible says, “*The just shall live by faith,*” (Habakkuk 2:4).

Actions have consequences, for the good or for the bad. Here, it was all bad. Disobedience to God’s commands always leads one a treacherous path. That’s why the Bible says, “*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path,*” (Psalm 119:105). God’s commands shine the way to keep man from that pathway that leads to destruction.

God then speaks to the **serpent**. He’s not questioning him for information. For now, it’s time to deal with the matter at hand. **Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed. Cursed** is a word no creature wants to hear. God has spoken again the **serpent. Upon thy belly thou**

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shalt go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life. The serpent would be the least favored of all animals and would pay tremendously for his part in the fall of man.

I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. This judgement also carries with it spiritual implications of the conflict between the enemy and people, to Jesus's ultimate victory in the end.

God's judgement was set. Individually, Adam and Eve received further judgements (see Genesis 3:16-19). Collectively, paradise was lost in the heart where all that reigned once was peace, and it was lost physically in being evicted from Eden (Genesis 3:22-24). Because, when sin enters in, it destroys everything.

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“WHEN SIN ENTERED IN”

Genesis 3:1-15

Please Answer the Review Questions Below

1. **T** or **F**. Adam was deceived by the serpent.
2. The serpent lied and said, Ye shall not surely _____.
A. Die B. Lose C. Eat D. Know
3. What did Eve see that made her want the forbidden fruit more (verse 6).

4. What does the word “**Subtil**” mean?

5. The eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were _____.
A. Shamed B. Guilty C. Naked D. Wrong
6. **T** or **F**. They sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons.
7. Describe what Adam and Eve may have been feeling when they hid from the presence of God behind the trees.

