

Life Lesson 3  
*The Fall*  
Text: Genesis 3

Introduction

We're going to open our Bible treasure chest today and look at one of the most precious jewels in it. It's a story about Adam and Eve – and about *you*. Do you remember that we learned that the Bible is like a letter – God's message to you? God has a special message for you in our lesson today, so pay close attention and listen to what God has to say to you.

In our last lesson we learned about the first of the four main events in the early days of the world, the creation. Today we will learn about the second main event, the fall.

The Story

Adam and Eve had it made. They lived in a beautiful garden. There were no bugs, no weeds, no thorns or stickers. The Garden of Eden was perfect. They had all the animals in the world as pets. It may be that they could even talk to the animals. We know Eve didn't seem surprised when the serpent talked to her.

Whether they could talk to the animals or not, we know that they could talk to God. They walked and talked together just as you and I are talking.

But something happened that changed the world for Adam and Eve – and for us.

God gave everything in the whole world to Adam and Eve. They could eat the fruit from any of the trees. God had forbidden them only one thing. They weren't to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

One day Eve was looking at the tree when someone came up to talk to her -- someone who meant to make trouble for her.

That someone was Satan, the devil. He had already been in trouble, himself. Satan once

was the most beautiful of all the angels. At that time he was called “Lucifer” or “son of the morning.”

Then he decided he wanted to be like God, the one in charge. He led a rebellion against God in Heaven. We know that God is holy. He can't bear sin and can't have it anywhere near him. Lucifer and the angels who followed him were cast out of heaven.

So then he decided to make trouble for God's new creation. He took the form of a serpent, or snake. The serpent was different then. Maybe it walked on legs, or even flew. We don't know for sure. We know it could talk because it spoke to Eve.

“Has God said you can't eat from every tree in the garden?” he said.

Eve answered Satan, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden, but not this one. God says that if we eat it we will die.”

“You won't die,” Satan said. “If you eat this, you'll be like God.”

Does that sound familiar? That's just what Satan himself did. He sinned by wanting to be like God, the boss.

Eve believed him and took the fruit from the forbidden tree and ate it. That was the first sin, and the ruin of the perfect world God made.

Eve persuaded Adam to eat the fruit, too. Then they both were sinners. Before they sinned, Adam and Eve had only perfect, pure thoughts. They didn't think much about their bodies. After they sinned, they felt a need to cover up so they sewed some fig leaves together to make clothes for themselves. The next thing they did was to hide from God.

Can anyone hide from God? Of course not. God knew where they were and he knew what they had done.

He still asked them, “What did you do?” because he wanted them to admit their sin.

“It’s Eve’s fault,” Adam said. “She talked me into eating the fruit.”

“It’s the serpent’s fault,” Eve said. “He tricked me.”

Do you think God was impressed with these excuses? No, Adam and Eve sinned, and sin always has consequences.

One of those consequences was in the perfect world. Now it was spoiled. They had to leave the beautiful garden of Eden forever. An angel stood in the gate with a flaming sword to keep them from ever coming back. The animals were no longer tame and friendly. It was hard to raise food to eat because of the weeds and bugs.

Worse than that, they died. Their bodies began to die, just as all of us are slowly dying, but their souls were dead, separated from God. Because they were sinners, their children would be sinners. Their grandchildren and great-grandchildren would be sinners. There would never again be people who were perfect. Everyone born into the world would die unless they had a Savior.

When Satan and his angels sinned, they were cast away from God. There was no hope for them. But God loved Adam and Eve. He made a way for them to be forgiven. All sin must be paid for by death, so God planned to send His Son in the form of a human. Jesus would live a perfect life, and then He would pay the penalty for sin. He would die and be separated from God.

To show that God planned to provide for Adam and Eve’s forgiveness, God took animals and killed them. He shed their blood to show that Jesus would one day shed His innocent blood. He gave the animal skins to Adam and Eve to wear. The animal skins didn’t save them. They were just a sign that one day Jesus would come and would save them.

### The Life Lesson

Adam and Eve’s sin didn’t affect just them. Everyone now has that sinful, or *fallen*, nature

that says, "I want to be like God. I want to be the boss." You have that sinful nature. That's why you don't automatically obey your parents, why you lie as easy as anything, and why you get mad. People only get mad when they don't get their own way. Just as Adam and Eve died spiritually, you are dead spiritually.

God made a way for Adam and Eve to be forgiven, and he has made a way for you to be forgiven, too. He sent Jesus to pay the penalty for sin.

Is just knowing that Jesus died enough? No, sin – wanting to be the boss – is what keeps us from God. We can't be saved from sin and still want our sin! Salvation means surrendering to God. We see that we are dead in sin and can't do anything to save ourselves. We believe that Jesus paid the penalty for our sin on the cross. And we surrender our way to His. When you are saved, you want Jesus to be the boss. You follow Him gladly and do whatever He says.

Everyone, without exception, is born a sinner. Everyone needs to be saved. That means you, too. If you aren't saved, that means you are God's enemy, separated from God by sin. If you are concerned about being saved, talk to your parents or your pastor. They will be glad to help you.

## Review Questions

Where did Adam and Eve live?

*The Garden of Eden*

What one tree did God forbid them to eat from?

*The tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

Who talked Eve into eating the fruit?

*The Devil*

What form did the Devil take?

*That of a serpent, or snake.*

Why was Satan cast out of heaven?

*Because he wanted to be like God, the boss.*

What did Adam and Eve do after they sinned.

*They sewed fig leaves together to make aprons and they hid from God.*

What happened to Adam and Eve's bodies after they sinned?

*They began to die.*

What happened to Adam and Eve's souls after they sinned?

*They were dead, separated from God.*

How did God show that one day He would send a Savior to pay for their sins?

*He killed innocent animals and made coats of skins for Adam and Eve.*

Did the animal skins save Adam and Eve?

*No, trusting God to send a Savior saved them.*

What else happened as a result of the fall?

*They were cast out of the Garden of Eden, and the world was no longer perfect.*

How did God make sure Adam and Eve could never go back to the Garden?

*He put an angel with a flaming sword in the gate.*