

Church at Home Pack – 2nd May 2021

Join us in church for our 10:30am service on Sunday or watch live at home on

<https://ccwsm.org.uk/service-type/sunday-service-online/>

If you like, join in with the discussion on Facebook with our church family (@ccwsm)!

In some sections we make several suggestions of ideas. Some may be more appropriate to you or the different people in your family or life group than others. We're not expecting you to do all of them (although you are very welcome to!) Choose the ones which best suit you.

Our verse for the year is the same as last year's verse as we think about the difference being with Jesus makes to our lives

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

Acts 4:13

GATHER TOGETHER

A prayer to start –

Father God,

Looks can be deceiving.

We can be tempted by things that look good but are not what you want for us.

Help us to be close to you and to learn from your loving warnings,

so that we might make the right choices;

so that we might make **your** choices.

Amen.

Action reminder –

From the top of my head

(Touch head)

to the tips of my toes;

(Touch toes)

from the lobes of my ears

(Touch ear lobes)

to the end of my nose;

(Touch nose)

from my back, to my front

(Turn round)

to my wiggly fingers,

(stretch out arms and wiggle fingers)

God loves me!

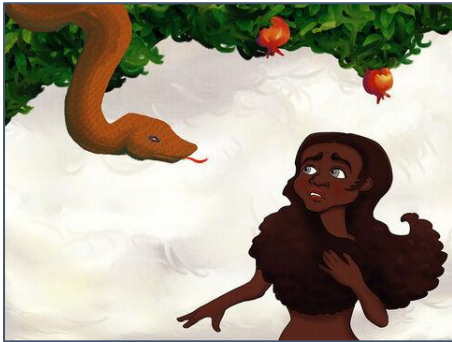
(jump up and down)

READ TOGETHER

Genesis 3



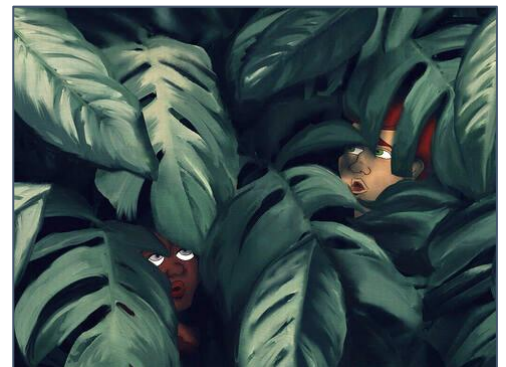
International Children's Bible (ICB)



3 Now the snake was the most clever of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day the snake spoke to the woman. He said, "Did God really say that you must not eat fruit from any tree in the garden?" ²The woman answered the snake, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden. ³But God told us, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden. You must not even touch it, or you will die.'" ⁴But the snake said to the woman, "You will not die. ⁵God knows that if you eat the fruit from that tree, you will learn about good and evil. Then you will be like God!"

⁶The woman saw that the tree was beautiful. She saw that its fruit was good to eat and that it would make her wise. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She also gave some of the fruit to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷Then, it was as if the man's and the woman's eyes were opened. They realized they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together and made something to cover themselves.

⁸Then they heard the Lord God walking in the garden. This was during the cool part of the day. And the man and his wife hid from the Lord God among the trees in the garden. ⁹But the Lord God called to the man. The Lord said, "Where are you?" ¹⁰The man answered, "I heard you walking in the garden. I was afraid because I was naked. So I hid." ¹¹God said to the man, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat fruit from that tree? I commanded you not to eat from that tree." ¹²The man said, "You gave this woman to me. She gave me fruit from the tree. So I ate it." ¹³Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What have you done?" She answered, "The snake tricked me. So I ate the fruit."



¹⁴The Lord God said to the snake,
"Because you did this,
a curse will be put on you.
You will be cursed more than any tame
animal or wild animal.
You will crawl on your stomach,
and you will eat dust all the days of your life.
¹⁵I will make you and the woman
enemies to each other.
Your descendants and her descendants
will be enemies.
Her child will crush your head.
And you will bite his heel."



¹⁶ Then God said to the woman,
“I will cause you to have much trouble
when you are pregnant.
And when you give birth to children,
you will have great pain.
You will greatly desire your husband,
but he will rule over you.”

¹⁷ Then God said to the man, “You listened to what your wife said. And you ate fruit from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from.

“So I will put a curse on the ground.
You will have to work very hard for food.
In pain you will eat its food
all the days of your life.

¹⁸ The ground will produce thorns and weeds for you.

And you will eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹ You will sweat and work hard
for your food.

Later you will return to the ground.

This is because you were taken from the ground.

You are dust.

And when you die, you will return to the dust.”

²⁰ The man named his wife Eve. This is because she is the mother of everyone who ever lived.



²¹ The Lord God made clothes from animal skins for the man and his wife. And so the Lord dressed them. ²² Then the Lord God said, “Look, the man has become like one of us. He knows good and evil. And now we must keep him from eating some of the fruit from the tree of life. If he does, he will live forever.” ²³ So the Lord God forced the man out of the garden of Eden. He had to work the ground he was taken from. ²⁴ God forced the man out of the garden. Then God put angels on the east side of the garden. He also put a sword of fire there. It flashed around in every direction. This kept people from getting to the tree of life.

New International Version (NIV)

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” ² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from

the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.”⁴ “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman.⁵ “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”



⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”¹⁰ He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”¹¹ And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”¹² The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,

“Cursed are you above all livestock

and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly

and you will eat dust

all the days of your life.

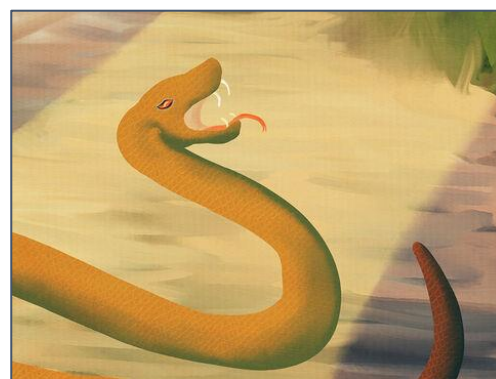
¹⁵ And I will put enmity

between you and the woman,

and between your offspring and hers;

he will crush your head,

and you will strike his heel.”



¹⁶ To the woman he said,

“I will make your pains in childbearing very severe;

with painful labour you will give birth to children.

Your desire will be for your husband,

and he will rule over you.”

¹⁷ To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’

“Cursed is the ground because of you;

through painful toil you will eat food from it

all the days of your life.

¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you,

and you will eat the plants of the field.

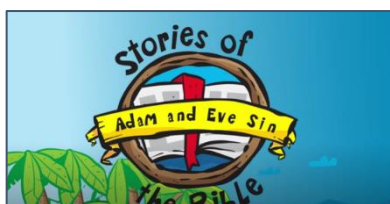
¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow

you will eat your food
until you return to the ground,
since from it you were taken;
for dust you are
and to dust you will return.”

²⁰ Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

²¹ The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. ²² And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” ²³ So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴ After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

WATCH TOGETHER



Stories of the Bible – Adam and Eve (Saddleback Kids):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7TDvJrjz0>



God's Story – The Fall (Crossroads Kids' Club):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kg2lkCxjMg8>



The Gospel Project - What is the ultimate consequence of sin?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8Ex-mA68Zc&list=PLAGNHMc-AE1nt0Dtgd5acNtNO2XGNf1Q&index=5>

TALK TOGETHER

- Are there “voices” around us which might tempt us to question God?
- Do people think of God’s instructions as “loving warnings” or as restrictions on their life? What about you? How do you see them?

STUDY TOGETHER

We recommend reading Genesis 3 in sections as you go through the questions.

Read Gen.3:1-6

- Compare what the serpent and the woman said about the tree they weren't allowed to eat from with what God said in Gen.2: 16-17.
- What made the woman decide to eat the fruit?
- What made the man decide to eat the fruit?
- Can you think of things that we might be tempted to do because it looks or seems good, even though it's wrong?

Ultimately their action came down to whether they were going to trust God and listen to him, or trust another voice which questioned what God had said.

Read Gen.3:7-11

- What picture do you get in your mind when you read about God walking the garden?
- What were the immediate consequences of them eating the fruit?

Read Gen.3:12-13

- When they were found out, what did they do?

Read Gen.3:14-19

Here we read of more consequences of their actions.

- What were the consequences for the serpent?
What do you think v.15 is talking about?
- What were the consequences for the woman?
- What were the consequences for the man?

Read Gen.3:20-24

- We read of another consequence of their actions in v.21. What is it?
- Why was it not good that people should be like God (see v.22)?
- What is the final consequence we're told of here?
- The Bible makes it clear that when we repent (turn away from sin and back to God) we are forgiven – but do our sinful actions still have consequences?

PLAY TOGETHER

To play this with your family you'll need a gift for each family member – with one gift that is better than all the others and at least one gift that no-one would want. Make sure the best gift is something which can be shared. Wrap each gift up in different ways (You might put one in a tatty plastic bag or bin liner; another in an envelope, and another in an empty chocolate tin or wrapped up in lovely gift wrap). Put the best gift in the worst looking wrapping and the worst gift in the best wrapping.



Let everyone choose which gift they want. When they've chosen, ask them why they chose that gift then let them open their presents. If they've chosen something that they don't want, tell them not to worry as whoever got the best present is going to share it with everyone. Remind them of today's Bible story where Adam and Eve chose something because they thought it looked good but it turned out to be a terrible choice.

MAKE TOGETHER

If you are unable to be in the church building for the Sunday service, you might like to make this in advance so that you can join in the response to the time of reflection and confession. Or you might like to make it afterwards to keep as a reminder.

You will need two twigs and some string to tie them together to form a cross.

- The rough cross is a reminder of the awful death that Jesus suffered. But God turned what looked awful into something beautiful.
- Collect some flowers and leaves from your garden and tie them together to make a posy. Tie the posy to the cross. Or – cut out some paper flowers and leaves and stick them to the cross.

The cross turned into something beautiful – a display of God's love and forgiveness



Paper flower

You will need:

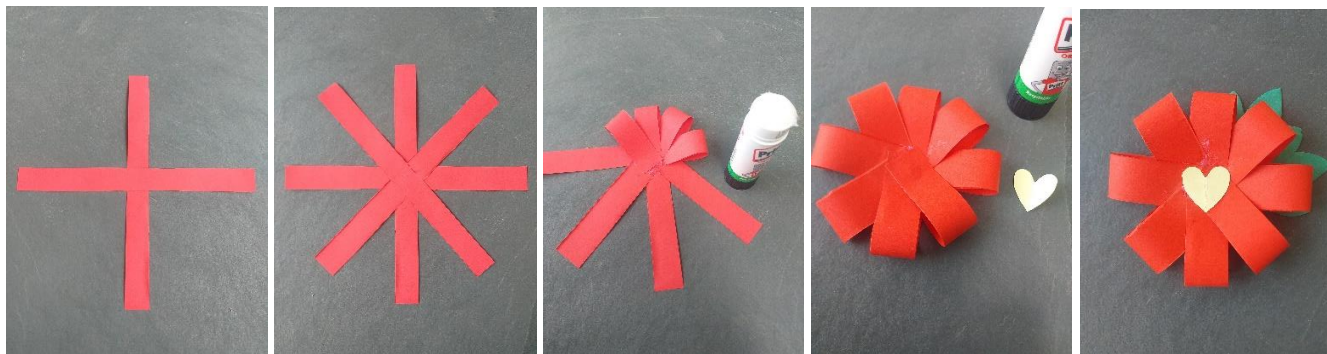
4 strips of coloured paper (equal length and width)

1 small heart shape (cut from a different coloured paper to the strips)

Some leaf shapes (cut from green paper)

Glue stick

- **Take two strips and glue in a cross shape** ~ *Think about the cross and how awful it felt when Jesus died.*
- **Take the next two strips and glue them in a X shape over the + shape** ~ *This reminds us that Jesus said 'It is finished' just before he died.... and everything changed.*
- **Take the ends of each strip and fold them over and stick them down in the centre of the cross to make a flower** ~ *This reminds us that what looked awful changed into something beautiful.*
- **Stick on the heart as the centre of your flower and add some leaves to the back** ~ *It became something beautiful because of God's love and forgiveness for us!*



SING TOGETHER

Jesus is beautiful – Bubbles Bandojo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z35juA3iwqY>

God forgave – Lifetree Kids: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZw6qQby24A>

The beauty of the cross – Jonny Diaz: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pze4kMuvck>

The Artist – Rend Collective: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qbWsKM_oJos

REFLECT TOGETHER



Looks good! ... on the outside

Think about our Bible reading today – the fruit was not as good as it looked.

The apple in the picture below reminds us that looks can be deceptive. As you look at the picture think about the things in your life that looked good at first but actually weren't what God wanted for you at all. Maybe a choice you made or something you did. It may be in the past or still with you now. Ask God to help you learn from that, forgive you and allow you to move on with him as your guide.



PRAY TOGETHER

God of the garden,
you spoke clearly to Adam and Eve,
yet they did not listen.
If we open our ears to your call, you will
show us how to live.
Help us to hear your loving warnings that guide us to the best choices.
Amen

Swap sin for forgiveness – prayer activity

You will need (per person in your household):

7 pebbles – give them a good wash
7 wrapped sweets (in a jar or bowl)



At the end of every day this week, take a pebble. Hold it and think about the things that haven't gone so well. The choices you made, things you did, said and thought that were not what God wanted. Those things feel heavy and hard, like the pebble. But God can do a swap.

Ask him to forgive you and to help you make good choices tomorrow. Put the pebble in the jar and swap it for a sweet. As you eat it, thank God for his love, forgiveness and guidance.

DO TOGETHER

A choice of fruit...



Next time you are at the supermarket or greengrocers or are doing an online shop, look at the huge choice of delicious fruits that are available. If you are able, buy a selection. Choose the ones that look the most delicious to you and arrange them in a bowl.

If you have other people in your house, sit around the table together as you share the fruit.

If you live alone, you might like to share the fruit with a friend outside in a garden or on a bench in the sunshine!

- Think back to the Bible passage.
- Choose the fruit that looks the most delicious to you.
- Take it and eat it. Is it as good as you were hoping?

As you eat it, thank God that he loves us enough to give us everything we need. Thank God that he gives us choice. Thank God for his loving warnings that guide us.

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*Action Reminder and 'God of the Garden' prayer taken or adapted from
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