



The Fall of Man

FAMILIES IN TRUTH

Genesis 2:4 - 3:24



God created people with the ability to make choices. He placed Adam and Eve in a beautiful garden and gave them everything they could ever want. Yet, when they were given the choice, they chose to follow the deceiver instead of the Creator. Their sin and its terrible consequence have been passed down to each of us. We were separated from our holy God, but He had a rescue plan to bring us back to Him.

Day #1: The Garden of Eden

After God had created the earth and plants and animals, God created the first person.

Then the Lord God formed a man. He made him out of the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into him. And the man became a living person. - Genesis 2:7

God reached down with His loving hands and touched the earth. He formed the man, and then He breathed His very own breath into the man's lungs. God, who is infinitely bigger than our entire universe, became intimately involved when it came to the man. And God remained closely involved with him (Genesis 3:8-9).

The Lord God had planted a garden in the east. It was in Eden. There He put the man He had formed. The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground. Their fruit was pleasing to look at and good to eat. - Genesis 2:8

A river ran through the garden, watering the many lush trees. In the middle of the garden were two special trees. One was the **tree of life**, which gave life forever. The other was the **tree of the knowledge of good and evil**, which gave the ability to tell the difference between good and evil.

God gave the man one very important rule. It was not a rule to harm the man, but a rule to protect him.

*He said, "You can eat the fruit of any tree that is in the garden. But you must not eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. **If you do, you can be sure that you will die.**" - Genesis 2:16*

What is your favorite fruit? Describe how it tastes. Each time you eat this fruit, remember that God is the giver of all good things (James 1:17). He provided Adam with all that he needed in the garden. Discuss what He has provided for you.

Day #2: Adam's Helper

What if a father knew that his daughter was about to ride her bike into a big hole? He would not be a good father if he kept silent about the hole. A good and loving father would warn his child about the danger ahead. In the same way, God commanded Adam not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God told Adam exactly what would happen if he chose to eat its fruit: He would die. It was Adam's choice whether or not he would obey.

God had placed the man, called Adam, in the garden. Adam had everything he needed - almost. All of the animals had a mate of their own kind, but Adam did not.

The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him." - Genesis 2:18

God, who fills all of our needs, created a wife for Adam. Adam named his wife Eve. They lived together in the beautiful garden, and everything was very good. They were both naked, and they felt no shame, or embarrassment (Genesis 2:25). This was similar to the way very young children love to run around without clothes on. They giggle and play and they have nothing to be ashamed of. God spent time with Adam and Eve in the beautiful garden that He had provided for them (Genesis 3:8). All their needs were taken care of, and they even had the pleasure of spending time with their Creator.

Make a pie chart. On a piece of paper, draw a circle, and then draw the smallest sliver possible in your circle. This tiny fraction of your chart shows the amount of fruit that was forbidden for Adam and Eve. Color the rest of the circle. The colored section symbolizes the amount of fruit that was good, ripe, and available for Adam and Eve.

Now apply this chart to your own life. Point to the colored section of the chart and list the many blessing that God has filled your life with. Look at how small the sliver of things we can't have is. We tend to focus on the few things we can't have instead of looking at the many blessings God has given us. Take time right now to praise God for His blessings, AND praise God for what He keeps from you. **Trust God.** Know that just as He did with Adam and Eve, He only withholds things from us because He knows what is best for us.

Day #3: The Deceiver

List three things in God's creation that are awesome. Now list three things in our world that are awful. Everything God created was good. However, we don't have to look far to see very bad things around us. Today we will see what happened to cause God's good world to have such bad things in it.

Day #3 continued:

A serpent approached Eve in the garden. Adam was with her (Genesis 3:6b). The Bible tells us that this serpent was actually the devil (Revelation 12:9). Remember that the name "devil" means liar or deceiver (John 8:44). At times, he takes the form of other creatures so he can fool people (2 Corinthians 11:14).

The serpent was very sneaky. He wanted Adam and Eve to doubt God, yet he did not boldly say, "God is a liar." Instead, he worded everything very cleverly. The tone of his voice cast doubt in Eve's mind. Read Satan's question below.



*The serpent said to the woman, "Did God **really** say, "You must not eat the fruit of **any** tree that is in the garden?"* - Genesis 3:1b

Eve told him that God said they would die if they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and she added that they couldn't even touch it.

*"**You can be sure that you won't die,**" the serpent said to the woman. "God knows that when you eat the fruit of that tree, you will know things you have never known before. You will be able to tell the difference between good and evil. **You will be like God.**"* - Genesis 3:4-5

The serpent mixed truth with lies. And with his twisted words, the devil accused God of holding back something really good from Adam and Eve. Notice his last line. He tried to tempt the man and woman with the same pride that caused him to be cast out of heaven.

Adam and Eve had a choice to make. Who would they trust?



The only way to recognize one of Satan's lies about God is to know the Truth. Commit to spending time in the Bible every day. When you are abiding with God, there is no room for Satan's lies.

Day #4: Consequences



The woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good to eat. It was also pleasing to look at. And it would make a person wise. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her. And he ate it. - Genesis 3:6

Sadly, Adam and Eve chose to believe the lie instead of the Truth. Even though they had spent time with their Creator, and knew His goodness first hand, they believed Satan's accusation that God was withholding something good from them. This was the first sin of man, and it changed everything. Until that point, everything on earth had been very good.

Of course, Adam and Eve did not end up with a better life, as Satan had promised. Instead, they lost the good life that they once had. Instantly they felt great shame, and they tried to hide from God.

God declared a punishment for Adam, Eve, and the serpent.

Day #4 continued:

Eve would have great pain when she gave birth to her children, and her husband would always rule over her. As for Adam's punishment, from that time on, weeds and thorns would grow up from the ground. Adam would have to work very hard just to have food to feed his family.

Because they chose not to trust God, both Adam and Eve would one day die (Genesis 3:19). God sent them out of the Garden of Eden so they could never eat from the Tree of Life. Adam and Eve's punishment would be passed down to all people.



This story affects each of us deeply.

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

It may seem unfair that Adam and Eve's sin affects us, yet everyday we each have the choice to obey God or to sin, and **we have all chosen to sin** (Romans 3:23). Do you realize that you, too, are a sinner? Tomorrow we will learn about God's plan to save each of us from our sin.

Day #5: God's Promise

Yesterday we read about Adam and Eve's choice to trust the serpent instead of trusting their Creator. Adam and Eve each received a punishment. The worst consequence of their sin was their separation from God.

There was no way for Adam or Eve to undo what they had done. But God is loving and merciful (Ephesians 2:4-5). He does not want anyone to remain separated from Him (2 Peter 3:9).

God had very bad news for the serpent and very good news for mankind. God cursed the serpent. Then God said that one day, one of Eve's offspring would crush the serpent's head. With these words, God announced that He had a plan to save all men and women from the punishment of their sin. The offspring that God was referring to was His own Son, Jesus Christ (1 John 3:8). Jesus paid the price for our sin. The Bible says, "Because of Him, God has brought us back to Himself." (Romans 5:11b).



*For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and His gift of righteousness, for **all who receive it** will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.* - Romans 5:17 NLT



God set two trees before Adam and Eve. They could choose the tree that gave life or the tree that brought death.

We also have a choice to make. From the moment we sinned, we were separated from God. We can choose to remain separated from Him, or we can choose to receive the free gift that Jesus offers: forgiveness for our sin, eternal life, and joy in our present life. What will your choice be?

If you have already made the choice to place your trust in Jesus, ask God to help you share His truth with others.