

**God's
Story
@ Home**

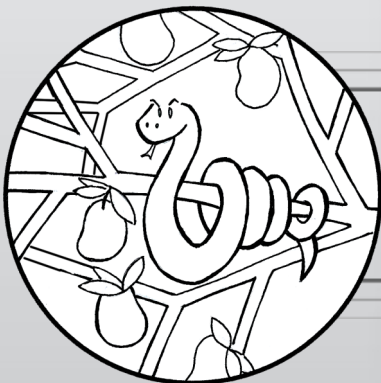
NL

Living the Word

God's Story @ Home

Family Faith Formation

2020 – 2021



Family Guide

Fall Quarter

September 13 to November 22, 2020

Contributors

Publisher

Gregory Rawn

Editor

Cynthia Fairman Paulson

Nance Keyes

Rev. Tara Parrish

Writers

Rev. Diana Booren

Rev. Natalie L. Gessert Hall

Emmy R. Kegler

Stephanie Luedtke

Kari Osmek

Rev. Katy Stenta

Graphic Designers

Nicholas McDougal

Benjamin Borter

Amanda Wolfe

Layout

Nance Keyes

Illustrator

Rev. Tom Pairan

Copyrights

Living the Word: God's Story @ Home (Narrative Lectionary, Year 3)

Text and illustrations copyright © 2015-2020 by Spirit & Truth Publishing

All rights reserved. No part of this curriculum may be used or reproduced in any other manner whatsoever without written permission. For information, contact Spirit & Truth Publishing at www.SpiritAndTruthPublishing.com.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture is quoted from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Lesson #3-1

Creation and Fall

Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17; 3:1-8



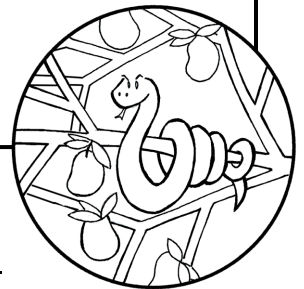
Key Verse:

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden...and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Genesis 3:8

The Point:

God loves us, even when we do the wrong thing.



Introduction

After God made the earth and the heavens, God formed the first humans. These humans, Adam and Eve, were called by God to care for the garden of Eden. God gave them permission to eat any of the fruit that grew there, with one exception. The crafty serpent encouraged Eve to question God's rules and love for humankind. She decided that God was keeping the best from them rather than giving them the best of creation. Eve and Adam both ate the forbidden fruit. God gave them everything, including a perfect relationship with God, but they followed the words of the serpent and disobeyed God. Their betrayal damaged their relationship with God. Sin came between humankind and God.

The Point

God loves us, even when we do the wrong thing.

Our relationship with God is a constant dynamic, which requires us to be attentive to God's instruction, to recognize when we have strayed, to confess, and to allow ourselves to be enfolded back into God's promise. Today's story presents the consequences of damaging our relationship with God, and leaves us hanging without reconciliation. How can we rewrite the story for ourselves? When we sin as Adam and Eve did because of our fear and mistrust, we can always confess, and allow God's forgiveness to welcome us back into relationship.

Activities a la Carte

Activities

Supplies

Introduction

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Plant bean seeds and talk about experiences with gardening.

10 min.

- † Paper cups
- † Potting soil
- † Bean seeds
- † Paper bowls
- † Small shovels or spoons
- † Pitchers of water

Learning the Story

The First Promise

Pantomime the story.

10 min.

- † Bible

Activities

Broken Promises

Experience the effects of a broken promise.

10 min.

- † Yarn
- † Scissors

Trust Me!

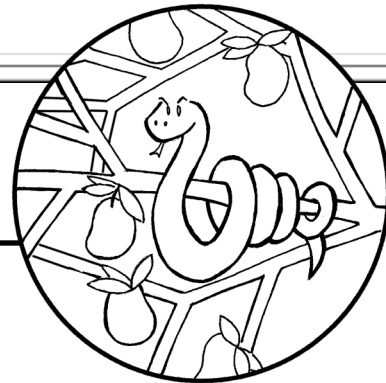
Practice trust by following directions.

15 min.

- † Paper
- † Markers or crayons

Prayer

God's Story @ Home



Introduction (10 minutes)

Broken Promises

Experience the effects of a broken promise.

Supplies:

- † Yarn
- † Scissors

Instructions:

1. **Have you ever made a promise to someone, only to break that promise? Or has anyone broken a promise to you?** Allow time for conversation.
2. **What was the effect of that broken promise? Did it change your relationship?** Allow time for conversation.
3. **We are going to do an activity that will give us a physical sense of what happens when a relationship is broken. Everyone stand up and make a circle. Stand close together, but not touching.**
4. The leader should not be part of the circle. When everyone is in place, hand a ball of yarn to one person, and tell that person: **Holding the end of the yarn tight so you do not lose it, toss (or roll) the ball to someone else.** After that is done: **Let's continue moving the ball to someone across the circle, making sure we hold on to the end, so that everyone has a piece of the yarn.** You may want to have each person hold the yarn at two places, one with each hand. **We are going to make a web that connects us all together.**
5. Once the web is complete, have everyone pull tightly on their piece. **What happens when we pull?** *[It pulls someone else's piece, too.]* **What do you think would happen if I disconnected one of the pieces?** *[Answers will vary.]* **Everyone pull tightly, and let's see what happens.**

6. Cut one piece of yarn. Discuss what happens. Have everyone pull again, and cut a second and third time.
7. **When we cut the yarn we became disconnected. Everyone's yarn shifted a little, even if the cut was not in their section. Something like this happens when we break promises. It affects relationships with not only person directly affected, but with the entire community. In today's story, we learned about a broken promise, and how it affects relationships.**

Learning the Story (10 minutes)

The First Promise

Pantomime the story.

Supplies:

† Bible

Instructions:

1. **We are going to listen to today's story with our entire bodies. As we hear the story, we will each pantomime a part of it.** Select people to play each of these characters: the Man, the Lord, the Woman, and the Serpent. If there is anyone without a role, they can be the trees. For groups of less than four people, you can have people play more than one role, or everyone can act out every role as it is being read.
2. Read Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17; 3:1-8 slowly and dramatically.
3. Afterward, sit down and discuss the following questions:
 - **When did God create the first human?** *[After the heavens and earth were created, but before anything began growing.]*
 - **Why did God put the human in the garden?** *[To care for it.]*
 - **What did the serpent say to the woman? Why do you think he started that conversation with her?** *[The serpent told her that she would not actually die if she ate the forbidden fruit. Answers may vary for the second question.]*
 - **What did the man and woman do when they heard the Lord coming? Why did they do that?** *[They hid because they knew they had done the wrong thing, and they were ashamed of their nakedness.]*
 - **How do you think their actions changed their relationship with the Lord?** *[Answers will vary.]*
 - **What was it like to be the character you played?** Allow each person to answer this question.
4. **God created humans to be in relationship with each other and with God. But, the humans did not trust God, and chose to trust the serpent instead. Sometimes we, too, trust voices other than God's, and we break God's trust. The good news is that God gives us so many chances to renew our promises. This year, we will hear stories about promises that God and God's people make to each other.**

Activity (10 minutes)

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Plant bean seeds and talk about experiences with gardening.

Supplies:

- † Paper cups
- † Potting soil
- † Bean seeds
- † Paper bowls
- † Small shovels or spoons
- † Pitchers of water

Preparation:

1. Decide whether your family will be planting one seed or if each person will plant their own. Prepare supplies to fit that number.

Instructions:

1. As you begin talking together, work together or separately to plant the bean. For each paper cup used, fill it to about one inch below the top. Press a hole about one inch into the soil, and drop your bean into it. Cover the bean with soil, and gently water it.
2. As you are planting, discuss the following questions. **Remember to listen to everyone and give everyone a chance to tell their story.**
 - Do you like to work in the garden?
 - Where is your favorite garden (home? church? community garden?)
 - What types of plants are your favorites to grow, or if you do not garden, what might you enjoy trying to grow?
 - How do you think that caring for a garden is like caring for each other? What types of things do both people and plants need?



Activity (15 minutes)

Trust Me!

Practice trust by following directions.

Supplies:

- † Paper
- † Markers or crayons

Preparation:

1. Write the word “Tree” in large letters on a slip of paper. Write “Person” on a second slip of paper. For more variety, you can add more options from the story like serpent, fruit, and bush.

Instructions:

1. **We just learned in today's story that the first two humans made a choice to trust the deceptive serpent, rather than trust the Lord, who made them. We sometimes do the same, but God continues to welcome us back into relationship. Our relationship with for God is played out every day in our relationships with other people. We must learn to trust each other so we can also learn to trust God.**
2. **Let's do an activity that will give us practice in trusting each other. Everyone needs to choose a partner.** With an odd number of people, either the leader can participate as an artist or not. Also, three people can each take turns in sequence.
3. **This activity is simple. You are each going to draw a picture. Pause. Easy, right? What makes it more difficult is that the person drawing will have their eyes closed and will not know what they are drawing. Their partner knows what they should draw, and will need to describe it to them...without telling them what it is! When the first picture is finished, you will switch roles and the other partner will draw something different.**
4. **Take a moment to decide who will draw first and who will describe. Then each artist should place a piece of paper and marker or crayon in front of themselves.**
5. **Artists, close your eyes. Partners, describe to your partners how to draw THIS. Hold up the paper that says “Tree.” You have five minutes to get your partner to draw this. Go!**



6. After five minutes: **Okay artists, open your eyes. What do you see?** Allow all answers. **Can you recognize what your partner described?**
7. **Now it is time to switch. New artists, get a piece of paper and marker or crayon, and close your eyes. New partners, describe to your partners how to draw this.** Hold up the paper that says "Person." **You have five minutes to get your partner to draw THIS. Go!**
8. **After five minutes: Okay artists, open your eyes. What do you see?** Allow all answers. **Can you recognize what your partner described?**
9. Discussion the following questions:
 - **What did it feel like to not know what you were doing and to rely on someone else to tell you?**
 - **What did it feel like to be responsible for someone else's work?**
 - **How can you build trust with your families and friends this week?**

Prayer

Encourage everyone to hold hands in a circle. Begin and end the prayer, but leave enough silence in the middle for people to participate.

Loving God,

Thank you for the amazing glory of your creation. Thank you for creating us to care for the earth and for each other. We are sorry for the times that we have broken trust with you or each other. Invite people to add their confessions here. Please restore our relationships, and make us whole again. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

If you have the "Living the Word: Sharing God's Story @ Home" sheet, remember to use it throughout the week as a part of your family devotions!