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## **1. Introduction**

The previous lesson in this series ended with Adam and Eve obeying Satan's lies and sinning against God by eating the forbidden fruit. Now they were helpless sinners before almighty, holy God.

This lessons continues the story about Adam and Eve who were now sinners and separated from God. Did Satan deliver what he had spoken in the temptation to get Eve and Adam to disobey God? No. Satan's lies did not benefit Adam and Eve in any way.

This lesson teaches the consequences of sin and man's resulting hopelessness before God. God does not ignore sin which means there are outcomes and consequences for sinning against holy God.

The payment for sin is death. That means sin separates people from God. It means that people experience physical death and their bodies return to the earth again. It also means people who die while they are estranged from God will go to the never-ending fire of punishment. It is important to emphasize the consequences of Adam and Eve sinning against God.

Emphasize that God's essence does not change when people sin against him. He is holy, righteous, and unchangeable. He remains the same all the time regardless of what people do.

This lesson also teaches the mercy and grace of God which he demonstrated to Adam and Eve. It shows how God intervened in the affairs of Adam and Eve and spared their lives from immediate death. God's mercy and grace provided a way for them to remain alive and to be reconciled to him.

Emphasize how great and wonderful the mercy and grace of God is. Emphasize that it originates in him and is not caused because of humanity's condition or good works.

Throughout the lesson, whenever appropriate, emphasize God's attributes as they are demonstrated in the story.

### Bible Lesson 3 (BTJ)

#### 2. Review

**Teacher:** It is good to see all of you here today. Who would like to tell me what you have learned from the Bible teaching? If we discuss the teaching, it will help everyone to understand the teaching.

**Patrick:** The stories you are teaching us are very exciting and we want to learn all of them. When I first heard about God, I was overwhelmed by what I heard.

**Teacher:** Tell us why you were overwhelmed.

**Patrick:** God is totally good and made everything that we have perfectly. All of his creation was good. No one taught him how to create the earth and everything that we see around us. He just knew how to do it because he knows everything. When he spoke and told things to appear, they appeared just like he said. By his power he made everything out of nothing. Then he made Adam and Eve. He gave them everything they needed including the Garden of Eden with good food for them. He loved them.

**Teacher:** That's right. Because God is holy and righteous always ways are good. What else impressed you about God

**Patrick:** You taught us that God made all the angels with him before he created the earth and things on the earth and he gave them good ways. He did not make them then leave them alone. No, God is everywhere present all the time so he was with the angels all the time. He was good to them because he is good. When I heard how God is everywhere present all the time I thought to myself, "God has seen everything that I have done including some bad things. He knows all about me. I'm in trouble"

**Teacher:** Did God have a beginning? Was he created like everything else?

**Patrick:** God never had a beginning. He is not like something that was created. He will never end. He is everywhere present at the same time. He knows everything and sees everything. That means we cannot get away from him. Now I know that all of us must listen well to the teaching.

**Patrick:** After we learned how Lucifer and the other angels rebelled against God, we thought he was very wicked and bad. We became angry with Satan because he wanted to

overthrow God. When we heard that God made hell for him we said to each other, “Satan deserves hell because he rebelled against holy God who created him perfectly.” Then we learned with Satan how Satan tempted Eve to sin. We were very angry and wanted to kill him. At first we blamed Satan for Eve’s disobedience. Then you explained the story again and we understood that it was her own fault that she sinned against God.

**Teacher:** That’s right, Eve was deceived and chose to disobey God. Was it Adam’s own fault that he ate some of the forbidden fruit and sinned against God?

**Patrick:** Adam chose to disobey God so it was his fault that he became a sinner by sinning against God. Adam and Eve chose to disobey God. They knew better than to eat of the forbidden fruit.

**Teacher:** What did you think when you heard about Eve and Adam breaking God’s commandment?

**Patrick:** At first when I heard the story about Eve and Adam disobeying God’s command, I was angry at Satan. I thought, “Why did you make them sin, you wicked spirit.” I thought that way because we always blame someone else for our sins. We say others caused us to sin even though we know that we chose to sin.

**Teacher:** Do you still think Adam and Eve’s disobedience was Satan’s fault?

**Patrick:** No, it was their fault. God had told them not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He spoke in plain words and they understood what he said. Instead of obeying God, they chose to obey Satan and that means they were guilty for having broken God’s command. They willfully sinned against God just like we willfully commit sin. That is bad.

**Teacher:** I am glad that you are understanding the teaching. It is important that everyone understands this teaching. God wants everyone to believe his message to us.

**Patrick:** I am glad you are teaching us. Now all of us are hearing the truth for the first time ever. Now I understand why there is death among us. Our forefathers taught us that people died because a sorcerer cursed them. We believed sorcerers had the power to cause us to die. But that is not true, is it?

**Teacher:** Did your forefathers who taught you that sorcerers had the power to control life and death know about God and the Bible? No, they did not know the Bible’s message. That is why they taught you things that are not true. Only God controls a person’s lifespan and

appoints the time of a person's death. Sorcerers cannot control the time of a person's death. They do not control our life span. A sorcerer tricks you into thinking that he is a powerful person who controls your life span but that is not true.

**Patrick:** Now I understand why we die. It is because Adam and Eve sinned against God and the penalty for sin is death.

**Teacher:** I am glad that you are thinking about the meaning God's message because it is true. The entire message is true and God wants you to understand it and to believe it. I too want you to believe it. It is very good that you have come to every meeting and listened to God's message. You have learned many truths about God and how he has worked in history.

### 3. After the Fall of Man

What happened after Eve and Adam ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? Was Satan there beside them to help them after they obeyed his lies? No, he was not there to help them. Remember this. Satan is a liar and a trickster. Satan works hard to get people to sin then he leaves them. He will not help people who obey him. He wants people to sin because he hates God. He is a liar and a deceiver who wants people to do evil deeds. He does not care about what happens to people.

Do you think God asked Adam and Eve about their disobedience to him? Do you think he punished them? What about the serpent through whom Satan spoke? Did God punish it? Or, do you think God did not see the disobedience of Adam and Eve? Do you think that he did not see and hear Satan speak through the serpent?

Do you remember what happened to Lucifer when he rebelled against God? God punished Lucifer and the angels who rebelled against him. Lucifer became Satan and the rebellious angels became demons or evil spirits. God is holy so he could not put up with their rebellion. They sinned against him and he punished them. God also punished Adam and Eve and the serpent.

Listen carefully as I teach you what happened after Adam and Eve sinned. As soon as they disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit, their eyes were



Show #6: Adam and Eve hid from God

opened, and they knew that they were naked. Quickly they sewed fig leaves together to make something to cover themselves.

When Adam and Eve sinned against God, right away they were separated from him and they felt very bad. The guilt of their sin made them feel sinful as if they were dirty because their pure relationship with God was broken. Their pure relationship with God was gone! Now they felt an awful doom upon themselves and they wanted to get rid of their guilt and badness. Do you think Adam and Eve could do something to undo their sin?

Right after they sinned, Adam and Eve noticed that they were naked. They had no clothes to cover their bodies. Who told them that they were naked? Before they sinned, they were naked but they did not think about it. Why did they think about it now? After they sinned against God they saw that they had no clothing so they quickly got some fig leaves, sewed them together and used them as loin coverings.

When they put on the covering made of fig leaves, did they feel free from having sinned against God? Do you think this fig leaf covering freed them from shame and guilt? Did they no longer feel sinful? After Adam and Eve put on the covering made of fig leaves, they still felt guilty of having sinned. Their guilt stayed with them and weighed heavily on them. They knew that they had sinned against God by disobeying his command.

Do you think God knew about their sin of disobedience? Did he know that they sinned against him? God knows everything. He is everywhere present all the time so he saw Satan tempt Eve to sin. He saw Eve lust for the forbidden fruit. He saw her ignore his warning, take the forbidden fruit and eat it. He saw her give some of the forbidden fruit to Adam. He saw Adam eat it. God knew all about their rebellion against him.

Now Adam and Eve were sinners and separated from God. They did not feel the same toward God. Something was between them. Something was different. Do you think that they wanted to talk with God again? No, they were afraid of God and they wanted to be left alone. In the cool of the day, the afternoon, they heard the Lord God walking in the Garden of Eden. "Let's hide ourselves," said Adam and Eve. "Let's hide from God so he cannot see us."

Adam and Eve hid from God but he knew where they were. He knew everything they did. He saw them hiding among the trees. God called to Adam and said, "Adam, where are you?" Adam heard God calling him and answered. "I am hiding from you. I heard the sound of you coming in the garden but I am afraid of you because I am naked so I hid myself. I am hiding from you. I am afraid of you."

Then God said to Adam. “Who told you that you are naked? Did you disobey me and eat fruit from the tree I forbade you? I commanded you not to eat from that tree. Did you eat from it anyway?” God already knew the answers to these questions. He asked Adam these questions to give him an opportunity to admit his sin against God.

Adam heard God’s questions and he was afraid. Did Adam admit that he had sinned against God? Listen to what Adam said as he answered God’s questions. Adam said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.” Adam did not admit that he sinned against God. Instead he blamed Eve as the reason for his sin against God. He also blamed God because he created Eve and put her with him. Adam tried to get out of his guilt by shifting the blame on Eve as the reason for his disobedience to God. Do you think God accepted Adam’s excuse? Do you think God accepted Adam’s blame-shifting excuses?

God did not accept Adam’s excuse because he had seen Adam willingly choose to eat of the forbidden fruit. God knows everything which means he also knew that Adam wrongly chose to eat the forbidden fruit. Adam was trying to get out of his wrong doing by blaming Eve. Do you ever blame others for your wrong doing? Today people all over the world act just like Adam acted when he shifted the blame for his sin on Eve. People chose to sin against God then blame others for their sins. People everywhere try to cover up their sins but God sees all of them and knows who is guilty for each sin.

Why do people try to cover up their sins? The reason people try to cover up their sins is because they do not like to admit that they have sinned. People want others to think well of them. That is the way it is with all people. But, are we good people or do we sin? If we are honest with ourselves we must admit that we sin, isn’t that true? It is no use for anyone to deny that he sins. Everyone sins because we are sinners. God expects us to admit that we are sinners. It is wrong to shift the blame for our sins to others.

Listen to what God said to Eve. God asked her, “What is this you have done?” Did God not know what Eve had done? God knew exactly what Eve had done but he wanted her to tell him what had happened. Did Eve readily acknowledge that she sinned against God? No, she blamed the serpent. Eve said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate of the forbidden fruit.”

Did Eve tell God the whole truth? Listen carefully. Eve admitted that the serpent deceived her and that she ate of the forbidden fruit. However, Eve did not admit that she rebelled against God’s command. She blamed the serpent for having deceived her. Even though the serpent deceived her, she chose to listen to Satan’s lies through the serpent. The serpent did not force her to eat the forbidden fruit. First she lusted for it. Then she took some and ate it. Eve should have admitted to God that she had sinned against him by eating the forbidden

fruit.

Listen carefully. God wants you to know that you cannot absolve yourselves of your wrong doing. Whenever you sin, whose fault is it? Is it someone else's fault or is it your own fault? Sometimes others are involved in the sin we commit but that doesn't mean it is their fault that we have chosen to sin. Whoever commits a sin is guilty before God for the sin he has committed. People are not guilty for the sins of someone else. They are guilty before God of the sins they commit.

Please listen carefully to this important point. It is important that all of us admit that we have sinned against God. If we keep on blaming others for our sin, then God will not help us with our sin problem and guilt. We will continue to be guilty before God for having broken his commandments. Then when we die, the penalty for sinning against God will be our payment. We will go to the fire of never-ending punishment and be eternally separated from God. That is horrible and God does not want you to go there. I do not want you to go there. That is why God sent me to you to teach you the Bible's message for you.

Do you think God knows about your sins? Does he want you to try to cover up your sins or admit that you have sinned against him? God does not want you to try to cover up your sins. Already God knows all about all of your sins. Have you forgotten some of your sins? God still remembers them as if they happened right now. God knows everything. All of you know about your own sins. You also know the sins of many other people. It is useless for anyone to try to cover up his sins. It is useless to think that God might not know about them. He knows everything that everyone does.

Listen carefully. Do you know what God wants you to do? Right now God wants you to admit that you have sinned against him. He wants to help you so that you will not die in your sins and be separated from him in the awful never-ending fire of punishment. That is why God sent me to teach you the Bible's story. God wants you to know how you can be helped with this awful problem of being guilty of being a sinner, of having sinned against him.

#### **4. The Curse on the Serpent**

Satan used the serpent to deceive Eve with his crafty lies. He wanted her to disobey God's command and sin against God. He wanted Eve to obey him. Eve gave in to Satan's temptation and committed the first sin among humanity. Do you think God judged the serpent for being used by Satan to deceive Eve? Listen carefully so you know what God did to the serpent.

God said to the serpent. "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all the cattle and more than every beast of the field. You will go on your belly and eat dust all the days of

your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed.”

God cursed the serpent because it was used by Satan to get Adam and Eve to sin against him. God’s curse on the serpent caused it to change physically. Snakes do not walk on the ground like other animals. They crawl on the ground and dust goes into their mouths. When God cursed the serpent, it changed its form from its original creation. Today most people do not like snakes. Some snakes are poisonous. Others are not. Even so, most people do not like snakes.

The snakes we see are not Satan, they are reptiles which crawl on the ground. When we see snakes, we are usually afraid of them. We do not like them even though they are not Satan, they are just snakes. That is because God cursed the snake for being used by Satan to speak wicked lies to Eve.

## **5. The Promise**

When God cursed the serpent, he put hatred between it and the woman. That means from then on there was hostility between Eve and the serpent. The serpent was not a friend of Eve. Eve did not like the snake because God placed hostility between them.

God also said to the snake, “I will put enmity between your seed and her seed. He will bruise you on the head, and you will bruise him on the heel.” What is the meaning of this statement to the snake? God’s statement to the snake has two meanings. The first meaning is that the descendants of Eve would not like snakes and snakes would not like them. That is how it is today. People do not like snakes. When you see a snake in the garden, how do you normally react? Do you strike at it? Do you want to get away from it? Usually people are startled when they see a snake crawling on the ground and they want to strike it. Why do they react in this manner? People tend to dislike snakes because God cursed the serpent and placed hostility between snakes and people, all of whom are the descendants of Eve.

Listen carefully to the second meaning of God’s statement to Eve. God said, “I will put enmity between your seed and her seed. He will bruise you on the head, and you will bruise him on the heel.” God made a promise in this statement concerning the serpent and a special descendant of Eve. God said that a certain descendant of Eve will someday bruise the serpent on its head. That means this certain descendant will defeat Satan and Satan will no longer have any power. At that time, Satan will no longer be able to fight against God and people. He will no longer be able to deceive people. He will be totally defeated by the special descendant of Eve. The special descendent of Eve is also called the Deliverer.

Let's talk about God's promise about the special descendent of Eve, the Deliverer. Who is he? Why did God make that promise to Eve? Why will he be born? What will he do? Why is he called the Deliverer?

Listen carefully to this explanation. God promised that he would send a specific descendant of Eve, a Deliverer, to save people from their sins. God did not want Adam, Eve or any of their descendants to die in a state of separation from himself. He promised that this Deliverer would crush the serpent's head. That means at some time in history the Deliverer will strike Satan with a final blow and he will be made powerless. When the Deliverer crushes him, Satan will no longer be able to fight against God or tempt people to sin. When that time comes, the evil work of Satan will be over.

God said the serpent would strike this Deliverer on the heel. That means when the Deliverer would come as God had promised, Satan would fight against him and try to overpower him. God said that Satan would fight against the Deliverer and try to destroy him. Satan hates God and all the good things God does for people. That is why Satan would try to put an end to the Deliverer once he came. However, he would not succeed. No, the Deliverer would completely defeat Satan and render him powerless.

God's promise to Adam and Eve about the coming Deliverer was good news for them. It is good news for all people. If God would not intervene by sending a Deliverer, Adam and Eve and all of his descendants would die in their sins and be eternally separated from God. Adam and Eve wanted the Deliverer to come and help them because they were sinners separated from God without the ability to undo their sin and be right with God. The promise of the Deliverer was good news for Adam and Eve. It is good news for all of us.

## **6. Hardships in Life**

God told Adam and Eve about the hardships all their descendants will experience because they had sinned against him. God said to Eve, "You will bear children with intense pain and suffering. And though your desire will be for your husband, he will be your master." This is true today. When babies are born, their mothers experience pain. It is hard on them. Sometimes women die as they give birth to babies. God told Eve that Adam would be her master. That is why today husbands are the leaders in families.

Let's think about this. Do you think women would experience hardship in childbirth today if Adam and Eve had not sinned? No, they would not. If Adam and Eve had obeyed God and never sinned, women today would not experience pain and hardships in childbirth as they do. If Adam and Eve had obeyed God, then their right relationship with God would have continued and they would not have become sinful.

Do you think that God spoke hardships for Adam too? Yes, he did. God said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate the fruit I told you not to eat, I have placed a curse on the ground. All your life you will struggle to make a living from it.” What do you think this curse was? Is it still in effect today? Listen carefully so you will understand fully about the hardships which God spoke to Adam.

God told Adam that he would have to work hard for a living. He said the earth would now produce thorns and thistles in addition to the good foods which they could eat. Do you think that thorns, thistles and many other kinds of weeds grew in the Garden of Eden? No, only good plants grew in the Garden of Eden and they bore very good fruit. Adam and Eve did not have to work hard in the Garden of Eden because everything in it was very good.

Today many weeds, vines, thistles, thorns and grasses grow in our gardens. We have to weed them over and over again. Day after day, week after week, year after year, we have to work hard for our food. Our parents have had to work hard for their food. We have to work hard for our food. Our children and grandchildren will also have to work hard for their food. Today it takes a lot of work so that we have enough food to eat.

After Adam and Eve sinned, God said to them, “All your life you will sweat to produce food, until your dying day. Then you will return to the ground from which you came.” No longer would they be able to eat freely from every tree in the Garden of Eden which God had planted for them without lots of hard work.

Do we have to work for our food today? Yes, we have to work hard for our food. We sweat and grow tired of working so hard weeding our gardens. When you pull weeds does that mean they will not grow again? No, they will grow again and again year after year. Sometimes insects eat our food or diseases damage a crop. It takes time and hard work to produce food. Hard work wears our bodies and we age. Eventually we die. Then our bodies are buried and they return to the ground again.

God told Adam and Eve, “You were made from dust, and to the dust you will return.” This is why people die. We cannot stop death. Everyone will die sometime because everyone has sinned and sin’s payment is death. Rich and poor people alike die. Young and old alike die. No one can stop death. This is not what God Adam and Eve to experience. He created them to live in harmony and unhindered fellowship with him. If they had not sinned against God, they would still be alive today.

However, because Adam and Eve rebelled against God, death has come upon humanity. They willingly sinned against God so the payment for sin which is death came upon

humanity and all people must die.

How do you think Adam and Eve felt when they heard God tell them about all of the hardships they and their descendants would experience? Were they happy? No, they were very sad. Now life would be very hard for them and their descendants because they had sinned against God. They knew God always speaks the truth. What could they do to save themselves? Could they just stay in the good Garden of Eden anyway? What would happen to them since they had sinned against God and were separated from him?

### **7. The Coat of Skins**

Do you remember what Adam and Eve did right after they sinned? They were afraid and they saw that they were naked. Now they were ashamed of themselves. Quickly they got some fig leaves, sewed them together and put them on to cover their nakedness. They tried to hide themselves from God. Did God see what they did? Was he pleased that they tried to cover themselves with a covering made from fig leaves? Was he pleased that they tried to hide from him?

Listen carefully. God did not accept their effort to cover up their nakedness. He was not satisfied with what they did. No, they could not make right their sin of rebelling against God by covering themselves with loin coverings made of fig leaves. They could not do anything to make God accept them and make themselves right with him again. Now what would happen to them? Would they die right away? Remember, God had told them if they disobeyed him, they would die. In other words, God placed a death sentence upon them if they ate fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

God did not approve of the way Adam and Eve tried to cover up their sin with coverings made from fig leaves. Do you think Adam and Eve should have tried something else to cover up their sin? No, anything they would have tried would have been rejected by God because they were guilty of having sinned against him. There was nothing that Adam and Eve could do to make God accept them, nothing at all. They were helpless sinners and separated from God. They were in big trouble without the ability to solve their problem. The only way they could be right with God again was for God to show mercy to them. Would he do that? What did God do for them so they did not immediately die?

Listen carefully so that you will understand what God did for them. God did not put Adam and Eve to death immediately. No, he was merciful to them and withheld immediate execution of the death sentence upon them. Then he covered them with a coat which made from animal skins. God did this for Adam and Eve so that they could live. Just think about what God did for Adam and Eve. He withheld the execution of the death sentence and

provided a covering for them which they did not deserve.

Where did God get the animal skins? Did God just make an animal skin covering out of nothing or did animals have to die so their skins could be used for coverings? Lets think about the warning God had spoken to Adam. God had commanded Adam, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die." The warning which God spoke to Adam included a death sentence for violating his command. That meant if they would they sin against God, the payment for their sin would be death.

Listen carefully. Adam and Eve sinned against God by violating his command to not eat fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. When Adam and Eve sinned against God they deserved death. God could have killed Adam and Eve as soon as they sinned. However, God did not do that. God showed them his mercy and grace and allowed them to live. If he had not shown them mercy and grace to them, they would have died right away.

God clothed Adam and Eve with animal skins which indicates animals had to die so their skins could be used for coverings. In that way, the death sentence was executed against the animals instead of against Adam and Eve. Then God took these animal skins and made a covering for Adam and Eve. This covering was God's provision for them according to his mercy and grace.

Lets think about this: Did the animals whose skins God used to make a covering for Adam and Eve deserve to die because they had sinned against God? No, the animals did not sin against God. God used the skins of those animals to make a covering for Adam and Eve instead of killing them. Had God not been merciful toward Adam and Eve, he would have killed them and they would have been eternally separated from him in the never-ending fire of punishment.

Why did God clothe Adam and Eve with a coat made from skins? Did someone tell God to do this? No, no one told God to do this. God loved Adam and Eve and he did not want them to die in their sins separated from him and go to the never-ending fire of punishment. Remember this point. The payment for sin is death.

God rejected Adam and Eve's fig-leaf covering because they tried to cover up their sin by their own way. When God clothed Adam and Eve with a coat made from skins he demonstrated his mercy and grace to them. He provided a suitable covering for them and clothed them with it. Now they did not have to die immediately. Why? Because God was merciful to them and provided a covering for them which was acceptable to himself according to his holiness and righteous standard. God provided an acceptable covering for

Adam and Eve, something they could not do for themselves. This satisfied God's righteous demand of death for the payment of sin and Adam and Eve remained alive. Because God was merciful to Adam and Eve, they did not die immediately. He showed his grace to them by covering them with a coat which he made from skins. He did for them what they could not do for themselves. By this action the demands of God's righteousness was meant and their lives were spared. This is an important point which God wants you to understand. Do you understand this important point?

### **8. Adam and Eve Expelled from the Garden of Eden**

God spared the lives of Adam and Eve because skin covering that God made for them became their clothes. It reminded them of God's mercy and grace which he freely bestowed upon them. It reminded them that their sin had to be judged and they should have died. Why should they have died? They should have died because they sinned against God and the penalty for all sin is death just like God had warned them.

Adam and Eve, clothed with animal skins, were still in the Garden of Eden. Do you think Adam and Eve were allowed to continue living in the Garden of Eden after they had sinned? No, God did not allow them to remain

in the Garden of Eden after they became sinners. "You must leave the Garden of Eden," God commanded. God drove them out of that beautiful garden. God did this because he did not want Adam and Eve to eat from the tree of life and live forever in their sinful state. God was merciful and gracious to Adam and Eve.



Show #7: Adam and Eve driven from the Garden of Eden

Adam and Eve obeyed God and left their beautiful home, the Garden of Eden. No longer could they eat of the delicious fruit grown in that garden. No longer did God come to them in the cool of the day in the Garden of Eden. Now they were outside of the Garden of Eden and not allowed to ever return to it again. Adam had to work hard to grow their food. He had to pull weeds and work in the hot sun. He sweated, he got thirsty and he tired from all the hard work. Life was much different for Adam and Eve after they sinned. It was not like Satan had promised Eve. Of course not. Satan only tells lies.

When God chased Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden, he placed a mighty angel with a flaming sword in front of the Garden of Eden. This angel made sure that no one would go to the tree of life and eat of its fruit. Do you think Adam or Eve could have tricked that angel and sneaked back into the Garden of Eden? No, it was not possible for them to enter the Garden of Eden again. They had sinned against God and he judged them for their wickedness. Now they lived outside of the beautiful Garden of Eden which God had planted for them. Never again would they live in a perfect place like the Garden of Eden. Never again would they be sinless like God had created them.

## 9. After the Meeting

**Setting:** Greg and Patrick were discussing the many things they learned from the Bible teaching sessions. They wanted to understand all of it.

**Greg:** Today we heard the story of how sin came to us people. God made everything good. Then Lucifer rebelled and became Satan. When we heard that story we were angry with Satan for sinning against God. Today we heard how Satan tempted Eve. At first I thought, “Eve will not disobey God. God made her perfect. He gave her everything that she needs.” Then I remembered how often I yielded to temptation and thought, “She will disobey God and that is why we too are sinners.”

**Patrick:** We must think about what happened Eve and Adam sinned. Satan did not make Eve or Adam sin against God. Eve listen to Satan’s lies and lusted for the forbidden fruit. Then she reached out and took some just like we do when we steal bananas or pineapples. Satan did not force her hand to do so. Eve willingly took of the forbidden fruit just like we willingly steal things from others. We know better and so did she. What did Adam do when Eve gave him some of the fruit? He just ate it didn’t he? It was Adam and Eve’s fault that they sinned against God, not Satan’s fault.

**Greg:** Many times before I heard this story I wondered why things are so bad in this world? Why cannot sicknesses and death be stopped? Why do weeds grow year after year? Now I know why.

**Patrick:** That’s right. God judged this earth so that life will be hard for us because Adam and Eve sinned. If they had not sinned, then God would not have cursed the earth. God did curse the ground and it will always bring forth weeds.

**Greg:** The last time I weeded my garden in the hot sun I thought, “Why do these weeds always grow so fast?” Now I know why we have to work hard and sweat so much for our food.

**Patrick:** All of us know that we have sinned many times and that we deserve death. God did not kill us, did he? God showed mercy to us and spared us so that we could hear the Bible story from our teacher.

**Greg:** God is so good, isn’t he? Just like he showed mercy and grace to Adam and Eve, he has been merciful to us too even though we didn’t know it.

**Patrick:** Adam and Eve tried to cover up their sinfulness with a covering made from fig leaves but God rejected it. He made a coat of animal skins for Adam and Eve and clothed them with it. If God would not have shown mercy and grace to them in this way, Adam and Eve would have had to die because since the payment is death.

**Greg:** All of us are helpless sinners and we deserve to die. We cannot save ourselves from sins' penalty, death. God alone can help us.

**Patrick:** I want to learn more about God so I can learn how my sin issue can be resolved. I do not want to die now. How will God take care of my sins because I cannot do it myself? None of us are able to solve our sin problem.

**Greg:** We learned that God promised that a Deliverer would be born who would defeat Satan. Who will the Deliverer be? How will he be able to conquer Satan and deliver us from the penalty of sin?

**Patrick:** That's a good question. If the Deliverer was to be born, then he cannot be another angel because angels our spirits. They are not human beings.

**Greg:** If he is to be born of a woman, then he will have to be human being like us. How can he be a Deliverer for us because everyone we know was born as a baby and grew up to be a sinful person? Is that not true?

**Patrick:** Of course it is true. All of us are sinners and we are doomed. God doesn't ignore anyone's sin does he?

**Greg:** No, God does not ignore our sins. Look around us. We know people who have died. We too will die. We have never been able to save ourselves. We will never be able to save ourselves. We are doomed, aren't we?

**Patrick:** Unless God helps us we are doomed. However remember that God promised to send a Deliverer who would have victory over Satan. This Deliverer must come from him. How can that be? God is not a person that he would give birth to someone who is a descendant of Eve. I want to learn how this Deliverer will come to help us so that our sin problem is resolved.

**Greg:** God banished Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden. I cried when I heard that because I knew right then that we would never get to see it. We will always live outside the Garden of Eden with all the weeds, sicknesses and death. We live here and sometimes we fight, we lie to each other and we steal from each other. We break the very law we accuse

others of breaking. We say we will stop doing these sins but we continue doing them don't we? God must help us, but how?

**Greg:** All of us must work hard at understanding this long story about God.

**Patrick:** After Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden, they could not return to it again. The cherubim and flaming sword kept them outside. This was God's judgment on them for rebelling against him.

**Greg:** God is not like our deities which we trick. We do things to trick them and get around their punishments. But God is not like them. No one can trick him. He knows everything, he is everywhere present and he is all-powerful. He knows everything that we do and holds us accountable for our actions. We need his help you will die in our sins.

**Patrick:** God promised a Deliverer to Adam and Eve. God always tells the truth. I believe that God will provide one. That's why we must attend every meeting and listen to all the words we are taught so that we can learn who the Deliverer is and how we can be helped by him. We must believe this good story. We must believe all of it.

10. **Review of the Lesson's Themes**

**The consequences of sin:** It is a serious matter to sin against God. There are consequences and outcomes from sinning against God. Emphasize that God holds everyone responsible for their actions. Everyone is accountable to God for what they do.

**The payment for sin is death:** God demands obedience, he does not tolerate sin. God's statement to Adam, "In the day you eat of the forbidden fruit you will die" is a death sentence for sinning. Sin separates people from God. People experience physical death because of sin. One who dies in a state of being separated from God will spend eternity in the never-ending fire of punishment.

**God is holy, righteous and immutable:** Emphasize the holiness and righteousness of God does not change. He does not change his being to accommodate standards of conduct of mankind. God is the same all the time and has one standard for everyone.

**God is omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient:** These attributes of God are seen in his interaction with mankind. He is always present among people, knows all that everyone thinks and does and is sovereignly in control of history. He continued to emphasize his points as they occur in stories.

**God is merciful, loving, gracious:** God loves people which is why he shows mercy and grace to us. He wants people to respond to his goodness to them and wants them to believe in him. Emphasize that God's mercy and grace will originate in him. He does not show mercy and grace to people because he is indebted to them by things they do. It must be understood that God's mercy and grace are undeserved and unmerited in anyway. God loves people and that is why he extends mercy and grace to them. This truth needs to be emphasized over and over again in this lesson and coming lessons where appropriate.

### **11. Students Practice Telling the Bible Stories**

At the end of this lesson, practice telling the story you have just heard to each other. Everyone needs to practice teaching Bible lessons by telling the stories.

Practice telling the stories of this lesson in pairs. One pair should teach one of the stories in the lesson following this lesson's Table of Contents.

The Table of Contents at the beginning of the lesson lists the stories for each lesson. Some of the stories or sections of a story are short so they should be combined with another section to make the exercise of practicing to teach by using stories a profitable exercise.

When you are teaching a lesson by telling the story, use questions and illustrations to keep the story interesting and to make the people think about the lesson's meanings. Be prepared to engage the audience with questions which are crafted to bring out how well they understand the meaning of the story.

Use visual aids or objects used in the lesson when you teach a story. Show the pictures at the right time in the story. When illustrations are used, be sure to bring them to a right and logical conclusion. If you do not make the right conclusions through telling the story, people will likely guess what it means and they could easily come to a wrong conclusion.

After you have practiced telling stories to each other, talk about ways to improve your story-telling ability. Be open to critique and be kind to each other as you work together to help each other become master story-tellers. After all, the goal of teaching God's Word via telling Bible stories is the salvation of spiritually lost people.

## 12. Teaching Tips for Teachers

### **Lesson Point #2:**

**Who is a sinner?** It is important for people to admit that they are sinners. People may rightly conclude that Adam and Eve were accountable to God for having sinned against him without making any personal application of that truth. People must see themselves lost and without hope of devising a way to make themselves right before God. People who deny that they are sinners will likely not see their need for salvation.

**Accountability:** Stress throughout the teaching the seriousness of the truth that God holds everyone accountable for their sins. People need to admit: “I am a sinner. God will hold me accountable for my sins.” Reinforce this point throughout the lessons. Ask yourself, “Do the people I am teaching see themselves as lost sinners?”

### **Lesson Point #3:**

**Curse on the Serpent:** Teach the biblical text without adding sensational information. All that is known about the serpent which tempted Eve is disclosed in Genesis 3:1-5. Do not elaborate with unsubstantiated ideas. All snakes crawl on the earth as God said they would. The snakes we see today are not Satan. They are snakes.

### **Lesson Point #4:**

**The promise:** Emphasize that God’s promise in Genesis 3:15 to Adam and Eve gave them hope for deliverance from the penalty of sin. God always does what he says he will do.

**Personal Testimony:** Tell the people that you, the teacher, had a guilt debt before God (do not name your sins). Describe the heaviness you felt as a guilty sinner. Tell how you have believed God’s story and how he removed your sin debt. That means you are saved from going to the place of never-ending punishment after death.

**Encourage everyone to believe the Bible stories.** If they believe the Word of God, God will also help them with their sin debt and guilt for being a sinner. Encourage them in a spirit of love and concern for their spiritual welfare.

### **Lesson Point #5:**

**Hardships:** Teach the historical account of God pronouncing hardships upon humanity because Adam and Eve sinned against him. These hardships are true for everyone. God is holy, righteous and does not leave sin unpunished.

### **Lesson Point #6:**

**The principle of substitution:** When teaching on the principle of substitution, emphasize that it was God who instituted it. Substitution is a demonstration of God's undeserved mercy and grace toward sinful mankind. Emphasize that Adam and Eve were recipients of God's mercy and grace which they did not deserve. Emphasize that God's love toward Adam and Eve moved him to show mercy and grace to them. Otherwise they would have had to pay for their sin by eternal death.

**Lesson Point #8:**

**Expelled from the Garden of Eden:** Even though God showed mercy and grace to Adam and Eve, he expelled them from the beautiful Garden of Eden. Even though God forgives a person for sinning against him, sin has consequences and will not go unnoticed by God. Remember to emphasize that God is holy, righteous and does not ignore anyone's sins.

**13. To the Honorable Teacher**

If any part of this lesson is misunderstood, go over that part again. Play that part of the lesson again. Summarize that part briefly for the students then play that part a second time. Then ask questions to ascertain whether or not this part of the lesson is now understood correctly.

Be prepared to use proper illustrations to clarify a given lesson point. Sometimes it is helpful to use a picture and talk about what is portrayed in the picture as you teach.

Stress to the students that the important themes of this lesson must be understood before proceeding to the next lesson.

Simple drama can be useful to make a point clearer in the people's minds. Before using drama, be sure that it is culturally appropriate to do so. If people are not accustomed to understanding simple drama, it may be best to not use it.