

The Story of Adam and Eve, Genesis 2:4 – 3:24

After God had created the heavens with the sun and the moon and the stars and the earth with all the water, land, plants, birds, fishes and **animals** He said it was good. It was a beautiful place. All the **animals** ate plants and were friends with each other. But there was no one to enjoy it or take care of it so God said “let us make a man”. And He did. He created the first man from the dust of the earth and breathed life into him with His own breath. The first man’s name was **Adam**, which means “man”, and he was innocent. That means he didn’t know about any bad things.

Now God had given **Adam** a beautiful garden to live in, it was called the Garden of Eden. It was full of different kinds of trees with all kinds of fruit that was very good to eat. In the very center of the garden was a special tree. The fruit of that tree was different because whoever ate it would then know about bad things. Since God had created man to do good He did not want **Adam** to learn about bad things so God told him not to eat from that tree or he would die, meaning that man would lose his relationship with God.

There was also a beautiful river that brought water to all the plants in the garden and **Adam’s** job was to take care of the garden. So **Adam** was the very first farmer. He had a very good life there, eating from all that grew in the garden, except the tree in the center, playing with the **animals** and talking with God. Then God gave **Adam** another job, He let **Adam** name all the **animals** and birds. What a job that was because there were so many of them. And God, seeing what a big job **Adam** had, thought, “It would be good for **Adam** to have a helper.” So **Adam** and God looked at all the **animals** but none of them was a suitable helper for **Adam**.

But God knew what to do. He made **Adam** very, very sleepy and when **Adam** was fast asleep God took one of **Adam’s** ribs and then healed the spot on his body where the rib had been taken from. God used the rib to create a woman for **Adam** and that is what **Adam** called her, “**woman**”, because she had come from man. So God put the man and **woman** together so they could help each other.

Now one of the creatures living in the garden was the **snake** and he was very tricky. He knew what was right and what was wrong and he chose to be bad. And because he was bad he decided to trick the **woman** into doing something wrong. He would get her to eat the fruit from the tree in the center of the garden. The **snake** tricked the **woman** by telling her that if she ate the fruit she would not die and also that she would be like God, knowing all things. So she looked at the fruit and it looked really good so she ate some. Then she took some to **Adam** and he ate it too. All of a sudden they realized they didn’t have any clothes on and they were ashamed so they quickly made some clothes for themselves from the leaves of the fig tree. Then they heard God as He was walking in

the garden calling for them. Since they knew they had done something wrong by eating from the tree in the center of the garden, they hid from God.

But God saw them and asked what they were doing. Adam told the Lord that he heard Him coming and he was ashamed so he and the woman hid. The Lord knew the truth so He asked Adam if he had eaten fruit from the tree in the center of the garden. Adam said, "The woman You put here with me gave me some of the fruit and I ate it." Then the Lord asked the woman what she had done. She said, "The snake tricked me into eating the fruit." Now because the man and the woman had broken the only rule the Lord had given them, that they could not eat fruit from the tree in the center of the garden, they had to be punished. The Lord had made that rule because He loved them and did not want them to get into trouble. But because they had broken the rule they had caused trouble for themselves and the Lord, because He is just, had to punish them. But first the snake had to be punished. Because he tricked the woman the snake was made to crawl on his belly forever and he would no longer be able to be friends with man or woman.

Then the Lord told the woman that because she had listened to the snake she would always have pain whenever she gave birth and that her husband would rule over her. And because Adam had listened to the woman and ate the fruit he would now have to work very hard to grow plants for food because weeds would come up in his garden and the soil would become rocky.

Since they had broken the rule Adam and the woman, who he named Eve, could no longer stay in the beautiful garden. But before they left the Lord made clothes for them from animal skins. This was the first sacrifice. Because of Adam and Eve's disobedience some animals had to die so they could have the skin to cover themselves.

So they left the garden and Adam became a farmer in the wilderness and he and Eve had many children.

Sometimes things look good to us too, just like the fruit did to Eve, and even though we know it is wrong we break a rule. That is called sin. But the Lord has made a covering for our sin. It is not a covering of animal skins but a covering that comes from believing that Jesus Christ came to earth as a baby, died for our sins and rose from the grave. Do you believe that? If you do, tell the Lord that you are sorry for any rules you have broken and that you believe in Him and He will cover you with His love.

Activity notes:

Word Play: When the story teller reads a certain word the listeners are to perform an activity that depicts that word. So for this story here are the suggestions.

When the word **animals** is read the children can act like their favorite animal. Example: jump or scratch like a monkey, purr like a cat, get down on all fours and bark like a dog.

When the name **Adam** is read the children can puff up their chest and show their muscles like a man.

When the word **woman** is read the children may want to smooth their hair or bat their eyes or rock a baby.

When the word **snake** is read the children could get down on the floor and crawl on their bellies (assuming they don't have their best clothes on) or make a hissing sound like a snake.

Another activity that could be used to bring the story to life is to have the storyteller's assistant act out the story as it is being read. This could entail Adam naming all the children as animals and then having the children pretend they are trees while Adam hides from God among them. If the children have made leaves as a craft they could hold them up as leafy branches on the trees.

Craft notes:

Here are some leaves and an apple that can be colored, cut out and taped to a straw or popsicle stick to simulate branches.



Coloring Activity:

Color the picture of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Add some animals and plants of your own. You might even want to add a snake.

