

Session 3

The fall into sin

This session should break your heart. After we came to know God as the wonderful Creator, we now discover the enemy and we learn that humans chose against God.

Scripture: Genesis 3

Supplies:

For Word (If you would like to use the sandbox again, use last time's supplies and just add what you think is necessary or use the felt board.)

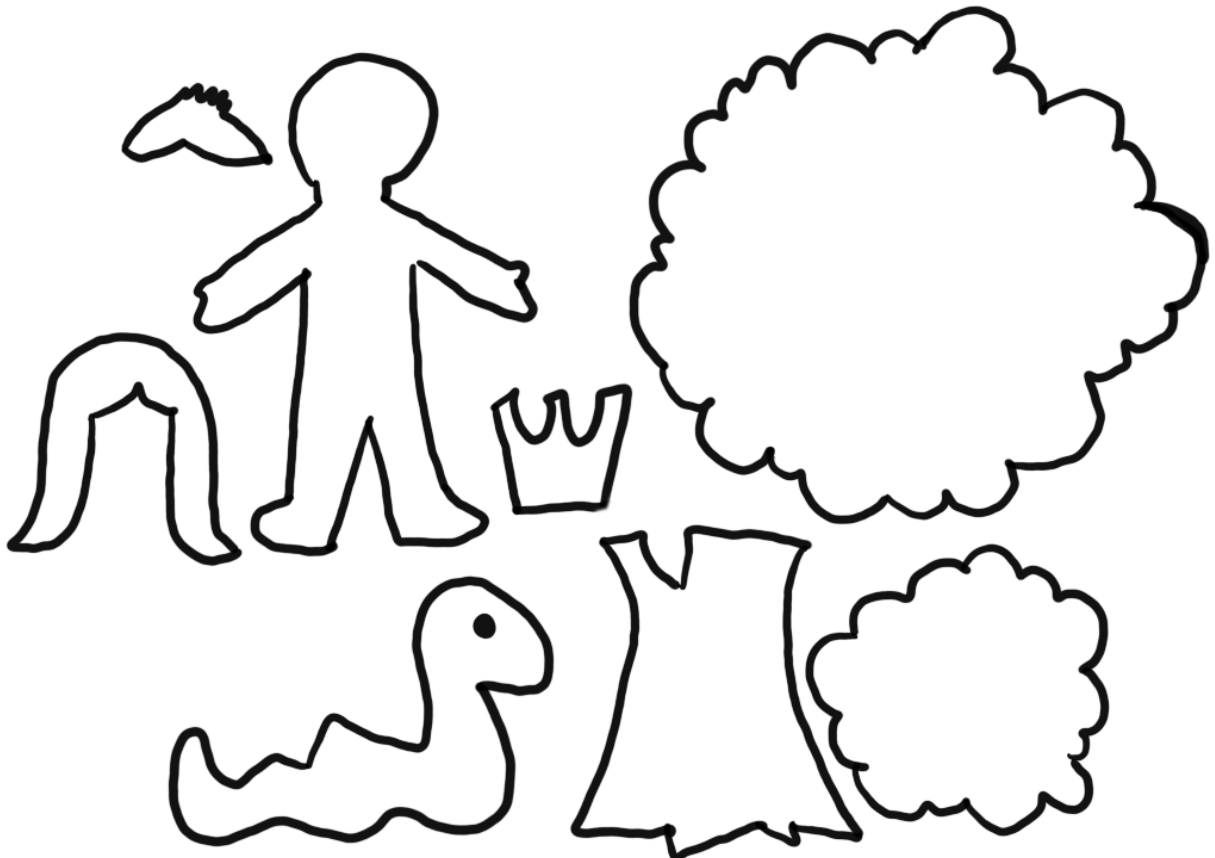
Felt board and pictures:

- Adam and Eve
- Trees
- A kneeling Adam and Eve
- A snake
- A dark cloud
- A fruit
- Sad face
- Dark material



For Working and Playing:

- Paper and crayons
- Clay
- Old newspaper
- Paper plates, paint and scissors





Welcome

Play – for a small group outside: “I spy with my little eye something that was in paradise...” (for example, it’s big and green, or you can’t count it, etc.). Encourage children to “take this game home”.

Play – for a big group: Make a big arrangement. Take twigs, leaves, flowers, fruit and vegetables together and call a few children to the front, for example one from each age group, to put something in the arrangement. Let everyone say: “And God saw that it was good!”



Worship

Settle down ritual: like the previous sessions



Word

Children 4–6 years:

Take a doll along and introduce her to the children. The doll is supposed to be new in your town and wants to know more. Tell the doll something about the children, but not the complete truth. For example, “In our school everyone wears blue shirts (true) and red socks (not true). The children will probably react to the lie.

Children 7–12 years:

Tell the children about something that happened. Use a well-known occurrence, but twist one of the facts.

I see you don’t like half-truths! You get upset when someone twists the truth.

Today’s story is a bit of a shock because someone believed a half-truth.

God made everything good. *Refer to the two previous sessions about the creation.*

Open the Bible at Genesis 3

God made everything good (*Place plants, animals, and Adam and Eve on the felt board or the sandbox*). But there was someone who didn’t like goodness (*bring in the snake*). The snake was more cunning than all the wild animals made by God, and it asked Eve: “Did God really tell you that you aren’t allowed to eat from any of the trees in the garden?” (*the snake looks at Eve and moves closer to her*). Can you hear how the snake is lying? Eve heard his lie. (*Eve moves away from the snake – almost out of the picture*). She quickly answered with the correct facts. She explained that God only spoke of one tree. The snake is lying and she knows this. Now the snake begins to get smarter with its lies. He made her wonder about God. He said that God was hiding something from them. He told her that they can be just like God. Read Genesis 3:4–5. It was very cunning of him. He started to convince her that the lies are true. (*Eve comes closer.*) Eve begins to doubt. She looks at the tree (*bring Eve to the tree*) and sees that the fruit is good and nice to look at. She has to decide who she will listen to. (*Cover the felt board/sandbox with dark material and stick the sad face on it*). Everything starts to go wrong now. Eve decides to listen to the snake. (*Take the material away*). Eve plucks a fruit and eats it. (*Move the snake slowly to one side. Bring Adam closer*). Adam comes closer and Eve gives him some fruit to eat as well. Read Genesis 3:7 “Both their eyes opened, and they realized they were naked.” (*Put Adam and Eve in the kneeling positions. The snake is lying to one side.*) Read Genesis 3:8–11 or tell them the story in a simple manner. (*Put a dark cloud above Adam and Eve. For the sandbox the cloud can be glued to a long stick.*) Adam says he isn’t sorry. He says it’s Eve’s fault. Eve says she isn’t sorry, and blames the snake.

God punishes the snake – Genesis 3:14–15

God punishes Eve – Verse 16

God punishes Adam – Verses 17–19

The time in paradise has now ended for Adam and Eve. God was very sad because He really loved the people He made. That is why verse 15 is a promise of the big plan that God had to make everything right again. He is actually saying that the Redeemer, Jesus, will come to get rid of the snake, who was actually the devil.

Children reflect on the story:

1. I wonder which part of the story shocked you the most.
2. I wonder if you've ever told a half-truth.
3. I wonder how you would feel if someone blamed you when something went wrong.



Working and Playing

- Draw a picture about this story.
- Use clay to make something from the story.
- Make a paper plate snake – Draw the snake's head in the middle of the plate. Colour the rest of the plate with dots or stripes. Cut the paper plate into strips with a string through the snake's head to hang it.
- Older children can write half-truths on the snake.
- Also for older children: "I see with my two eyes something that is going wrong" – look for things in the newspapers that are wrong or untrue. Take it out and tear it up.
- Turn it into a prayer exercise. Go through the newspaper and find some things to pray for. Pray that the truth will be clear, that people will get to know Jesus, that He will protect His children, etc. It can also be done around the Our Father prayer. Put articles in the prayer where appropriate and pray Jesus' words over the situation.

Closing prayer to end the session

