

God's Plan: 2 BE WITH US!

Bible Story

The Sin Separation

Genesis 2:8–9, 15–17; 3:1–24

What happens
when I do wrong
things?

Sin separates
you from God.

Bible Verse

"Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God's glory." Romans 3:23

Session Goals

1. PARTICIPATE in telling the story of Adam and Eve.
2. IDENTIFY what sin is.
3. ASK God for help not to do wrong things.
4. CHOOSE to become a member of God's family, as the Holy Spirit leads.

Spark Principle—Cause & Effect

Whatever we do (a cause) has a result (an effect). Whenever we sin, the effect is separation from God.



Broken Heart

A broken heart has long stood for heartache caused by physical or emotional separation.

When Adam and Eve sinned, the result was their separation from God—physical, emotional and spiritual. This separation results when we sin, too. The heartache caused by this separation is felt by God and by us as well.



Heart Prep by Henrietta Mears

Although Adam and Eve were created without sin, God gave them the power to choose between right and wrong. They each had a free will. God placed them in a perfect place, the Garden of Eden, and told them they had the freedom and use of the whole garden, except for one thing. God said, "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 2:17).

The temptation of Eve began when the serpent put in Eve's heart the wicked, terrible thought that something other than God's plan was best. He wanted to make Eve question God's goodness and to shake her simple faith in God's love.

All people since the fall, without respect to position or class, have been sinners before God. "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). The entire nature of people has been brought under the condemnation and curse of sin. We must have a Savior.

In the same chapter that records this story of sin is the promise of victory over it. Read Genesis 3:15, for here a Redeemer is promised! The Chief Engineer of heaven was working out all of this plan before the world's foundation and long before people sinned or realized their need. The cross of Calvary stands so related to all the ages that the sacrifice of Jesus Christ "once and for all" (1 Peter 3:18) fulfilled the promise of a Redeemer and provided salvation to all who believe since the very fall of Adam and Eve.

Daily Recap

At the end of each session, take time to reflect on what happened. Use these questions as a guide:

- What was your greatest struggle today? How did you respond?
- Thank God for His desire to be with you! Invite Him to prepare the hearts of the kids to respond to their need to be with Him.
- Pray, asking God to help each child in your group understand His love and salvation.

Materials

Optional Bible Story materials listed on page 18.

Bibles



Lab Journal



Session 2 Daily Plan Pennant



Session 2 Bible Story Poster from Bible Teaching Poster Pack



light corn syrup



red and blue food coloring



spoon



water in a clear glass



baby oil



three more clear drinking glasses



fizzing antacid tablet



markers



Tell the Bible Story

Preparation: Mark Genesis 2 and Romans 3:23 in your Bible. (Optional: Use Post-it Notes to mark Bible.)

Pour some corn syrup into one glass, add red food coloring and stir to make syrup red. To glass of water, add blue food coloring and stir to make a very dark blue. Place corn syrup glass, water glass, baby oil and remaining empty glasses where you will lead the Story Starter activity.

Story Starter

Welcome back to SonSpark Labs! Yesterday we discovered a little about God's amazing law of gravity. Today we're going to have fun with another law in God's universe. We see this law around us every day. It's called "cause and effect." That means that whatever we do (a cause) has a result (an effect). Let's see if we can cause some interesting effects!

Fill one of the empty glasses about $\frac{1}{4}$ full of the colored water. Next I'm going to make a cause by pouring some oil on top of this water. What do you think the effect will be? Volunteers respond. Pour baby oil down the inside of the glass to cover colored water, leaving about an inch (2.5 cm) of room at the top. The effect is that the oil sits on top of the water. Oil is less dense than water. When a liquid is less dense than another, it will sit on top of the other liquid.

Hold up fizzing antacid tablet. This is an antacid tablet. People take antacids when they have stomach problems. What do you think the effect



will be if I drop it into our water and oil mixture? Volunteers respond. Break antacid tablet in half, and drop both pieces into the glass.

The antacid makes bubbles of carbon dioxide. As the bubbles rise, they carry some of the colored water with them. When the bubbles reach the surface, they pop. Then the colored water sinks back to the bottom. Was this the effect you expected? Volunteers respond.

Yesterday we heard about how God created the world. Pour some baby oil into the remaining empty glass. Let's say that the clear oil in this glass represents God. When God created the world, it was perfect. But the world isn't perfect now. Hold up Bible and open to Genesis 2 bookmark. In today's Bible story, we'll discover why the world is no longer perfect. Remember, because our story is from the Bible, we know that it's true!

The Sin Separation

Genesis 2:8–9,15–17; 3:1–24

The Creation

The Garden of Eden was the most beautiful spot in God's perfect creation. Hold up "Hooray" sign and lead children to say, "Hooray!" It was the perfect home for the man and woman God had created. What were the names of these first two people?

Bring the Bible Story to Life!

On separate sheets of construction paper, write the words, "Hooray!" "Oh no!" and "Hiss." Before telling the story, practice holding up the signs and leading children to say the word(s) written on them or to hiss for "Hiss." As you tell the story, hold up the appropriate sign and lead children as indicated by the blue text in the story.

(Adam and Eve.) **Let's use red corn syrup to represent Adam and Eve.** Carefully pour the red corn syrup down the inside of the glass holding the oil. Corn syrup will slide under the oil to form a distinct layer. Show glass so everyone sees the layers.

God told Adam and Eve to enjoy the garden and take care of it. Every day they talked with God! **Hold up "Hooray" sign. Children say, "Hooray!"** Adam and Eve loved God and enjoyed being close with Him and being His good friends. **Hold up "Hooray" sign. Children say, "Hooray!"**

There was only ONE rule that God gave Adam and Eve to obey. "You may eat from EVERY tree in the garden, except for this one special tree," God said. It didn't seem like a hard rule to keep. There were LOTS of other trees and TONS of other fruit to eat. Life in the garden was perfect. But one day, trouble came to their paradise. **Hold up "Oh no" sign. Children say, "Oh no!"**

The Cause

A serpent, the cleverest animal God had created, spoke to Eve. This serpent was really God's enemy, Satan. **Hold up "Oh no" sign. Children say, "Oh no!"**

"Did God REALLY say that you couldn't eat from EVERY tree in the garden?" he slyly asked. **Hold up "Hiss" sign. Children hiss.**

"We may eat from all the trees in the garden, except for one," Eve replied. "God said if we eat from it or touch it, we will die."

"You won't die!" the serpent almost laughed. "This fruit will make you WISE like God!" **Hold up "Hiss" sign. Children hiss.**

Eve MUST have wondered what to think. God had said one thing about the tree, but the serpent was saying exactly the opposite. Who was right?

Eve looked at the fruit. It WAS beautiful. And it WOULD be wonderful to be wise like God. She took the fruit and bit into it. **Hold up "Oh no" sign. Children say, "Oh no!"** Adam did, too. **Hold up "Oh no" sign. Children say, "Oh no!"** Suddenly, they both knew that they had chosen to do something terribly, terribly wrong. **Hold**

up "Oh no" sign. Children say, "Oh no!"

The Effect

What do you do when you know you've done something wrong? Volunteers respond. Adam and Eve were afraid. They tried to hide themselves in the garden. They didn't want to talk to God. Something had come between them. **Hold up "Oh no" sign. Children say, "Oh no!"** They had been separated from God.

Let's see what "separation" means. Watch our experiment. Carefully pour blue water down the inside of the glass holding oil and corn syrup. The water will slip between the two existing layers. Show glass.

This blue liquid has come between the other two liquids. It has separated them from each other. What had come between Adam and Eve and God? (Their sin.) Adam and Eve chose to disobey God. Choosing to do wrong is called "sinning."

Because of their sin, Adam and Eve had to leave the beautiful garden where they had been so happy. **Hold up "Oh no" sign. Children say, "Oh no!"** They could no longer talk with God as they had before. **Hold up "Oh no" sign. Children say, "Oh no!"** They



would have troubles that they had never known before—sadness and hard work and pain. **Hold up “Oh no” sign. Children say, “Oh no!”** They would die, just as God had warned them. **Hold up “Oh no” sign. Children say, “Oh no!”**

Skit Option

As a fun alternative or supplement to this Bible story, ask leaders, youth helpers or other volunteers to perform “The Savior” Bible story skit in *Show-Time! Assemblies*.

The awful results of sin didn’t stop with Adam and Eve. From that day on, everyone has chosen to sin. Bad things keep on happening because people keep on choosing to sin.

Hold up “Oh no” sign. Children say, “Oh no!”

Conclusion

Our Daily Plan is “God’s Plan: 2 BE WITH Us!” But something separates us from God and keeps us from being with Him. What is that something? (Sin.) Satan talked Eve into sinning because he wanted to stop God’s plan. But Satan couldn’t do it. NOTHING and NO ONE can ever stop God’s plan! Adam and Eve’s sin couldn’t stop God’s plan and neither can your sin. God’s awesome plan has been there from the beginning of everything. And God’s awesome plan has always included YOU!

Our Bible verse for today, Romans 3:23, says “Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to

God’s glory.” EVERYONE has sinned! That means you and me and everyone here has sinned—even the pastor of our church, our friends and everyone in our family. Everyone has sinned.

This sin separates us from God. It’s like when you have a fight with your best friend. You might see your friend every day, but you don’t feel close anymore. You don’t joke and play together. Sin doesn’t take God AWAY. God is always with us. But when we sin, we don’t feel close to Him.



God’s plan is all about ending the terrible separation caused by sin. God said that, one day, a Savior would take the punishment for our sins, and we could be close to God again. That Savior is Jesus, God’s own Son. Jesus is the most important part of God’s awesome plan because He made the way for us to be members of God’s family. Invite children interested in knowing more about becoming members of God’s family to talk with you or another leader after class. See “Leading a Child to Christ” (p.1).

Prayer

God can help us be strong and not do wrong things. Let’s pray and ask for His help. Allow a few moments for children to pray silently. Then close prayer, **Thank You, God, for helping us do good things and not sin. We love You and want to be with You every day! In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Teaching Tip

Keep the glass of liquid layers for the Session 4 Bible Story. Or plan to recreate it.



Apply the Bible Story

Bible Story Review

To review the Bible Story, lead children to complete “What Happens When I Do Wrong Things?” activity on page 6 of the *Lab Journal*. As children work, ask these questions to guide conversation:

- ① **What was the one rule God gave Adam and Eve?** (Do not eat the fruit from one of the trees in the garden.)
- ① **What did God say would happen if they ate from that one tree?** (They would die.)
- ① **Who sins?** (Everyone.)

The question in today’s Q&A is “What happens when I do wrong things?” After hearing our story, how would you answer that question? Volunteers respond. The Q&A answer is that “Sin separates you from God.” Why is it important to know that sin separates us from God? Volunteers respond. Adam and Eve were close with God before they sinned. Now sin is a part of the world God created to be perfect. Each of us sins, and we need God’s forgiveness to be close with Him.

Active Review

Children stand in a circle, begin clapping in rhythm and then count off aloud around the circle. Whenever someone comes to a number containing a three or a seven, that child answers one of the questions above or chooses a volunteer to answer. Continue counting where children left off, and change the motion (foot tap, finger snap, jump, etc.) each time. (Note: If the same children keep answering, choose different numbers.)

God’s Plan for Me (Life Application)

Today’s Bible verse is Romans 3:23. Read verse aloud from Bible. In this verse, “God’s glory” means that God is perfect. What do we mean when we say someone or something doesn’t measure up? (It isn’t good enough.) What does “No one measures up to God’s glory” mean? (We aren’t perfect as God is.)

Children complete “What Is Sin?” activity on page 8 of the *Lab Journal*. Ask questions such as these:

- ① **What is sin?** (The wrong things we all do.)
- ① **What are some of the wrong things kids your age do?** (Cheat on a test. Argue with friends. Not do chores. Be mean to brother or sister.)
- ① **What can happen as a result of these wrong things, or sins?** (Get in trouble at school. Not be able to play with friends. Get grounded or have a time-out.)

What part of God’s plan are we talking about today? Pause for children to respond, “2 BE WITH US!” Today we’re discovering that God wants to be with us. When we do something wrong, the sin separates us from God.

Hold up Session 2 Daily Plan Pennant. The broken heart can remind us of this separation. Being separated from God is like having a broken heart. And our sin breaks God’s heart, too.

But God has always had a plan to mend our broken hearts so that we don’t have to stay apart from Him. His plan is all about Jesus—GP4U = J! Every day at SonSpark Labs, we’re going to discover more about His amazing plan.