



STORY FROM...
Genesis 1–3

Separation

◀ **REVIEW PREVIOUS STORIES** *(Guide the group as they give an overview of previous stories and retell the last story)*

▼ **TELL THE STORY** *(Don't just read it—know it and bring it to life!)*

One day, a clever serpent came to Eve and asked her, *“Did God really say you can't eat ANY of the fruit in the garden?”*

Eve told him, *“No, we can eat from any tree in the garden. It's only the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil that we are not allowed to eat from—or even touch, or we will die.”*

Trying to trick Eve, the serpent said, *“You won't die! God knows that as soon as you eat that fruit your eyes will be opened, and you will become just like him! You will know everything, both good and evil.”*

Eve, believing the serpent, looked at the delicious fruit, and thought, *“Humm... we will know everything...”* Then she took some of the fruit and ate it. She also gave some to Adam, who was with her, and he ate it. Instantly, their eyes were opened, and they became filled with shame and fear. They tied fig leaves together to cover up their nakedness.

Later that day, Adam and Eve heard God walking in the garden, so they hid in some bushes.

God called to them, *“Where are you?”*

Adam answered, *“I heard you coming, and I was afraid... because I was naked, so I hid.”*

God answered, *“Why are you ashamed of being naked? Did you eat the fruit I told you not to eat?”*

Adam said, *“It was the woman you gave me... she handed me the fruit.”*

Then God said to Eve, *“How could you do this?”*

Eve replied, *“The serpent tricked me into eating the fruit.”*

So God said to the serpent, *“Because you have done this, you and your kind will crawl on your bellies and eat dust the rest of your lives. You will be the enemy of women and their sons. As you bite at his heels, he will step on your head.”*

God's heart was broken because of Adam and Eve's disobedience. God always does what is right and true; he could not ignore what they had done. So God punished Adam and Eve by throwing them out of the garden – outside of his care and protection. No longer following God's ways, Adam and Eve were now subject to sickness, pain, and even death.

God told them, *“The way you have chosen to live will now bring you great struggles...*

...women will have sharp pains while giving birth.

...men will have to work hard and sweat just to produce a little food from the ground.

...and you'll both fight to control your relationship.

...then, you'll return to the ground from which I created you.” (Pause)

Even though God punished Adam and Eve, he did not stop loving them.

He even created clothing for them out of animal skins.

From this point on, God stationed mighty angels at the entrance to the garden.

God also put a flaming sword that flashed back and forth, to guard the way to the Tree of Life.

Humans would no longer be able to eat from the Tree of Life and live forever.



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- ▲ **RETELL THE STORY** *(This may seem redundant, but it is very effective in helping the listeners own the story)*
- ▼ **DIALOGUE** *(These questions are a good start for you to draw out the group's observations about the story)*
 - **What do we know about this serpent? What did he try to do? How?**
*He distorted what God had said about eating fruit from the other trees.
He lied by telling Eve that the fruit would make her like God. (Where have we seen this before?)*
 - **Why was it a bad idea for them to eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil?**
*There were consequences of breaking God's trust.
They now have the responsibility of knowing about and dealing with evil in their own strength.*
 - **What did Adam and Eve do wrong? What were the consequences? (immediate and future)**
 - **How was their relationship affected by their disobedience?**
 - **Why do you think God requires consequences for sin and rebellion?**
 - **What do you think would happen if he didn't?**
In his perfect goodness and fairness, God will never allow evil to remain in his presence. His holiness requires that sin be punished.
 - **What do we learn about humans in this story? (Where in the story did you see this?)**
*Humans can be deceived into believing wrong things.
Humans can choose God's ways or their own.
Humans tend to hide and blame when faced with sin.*
 - **Do you think that God gave up on Adam and Eve? (Where in the story did you see this?)**
 - **Did you hear anything that reminded you of previous stories? What connections did you see?**
 - **What do we learn about God in this story? (Where in the story did you see this?)**
*God knows all things. He knew Adam and Eve had eaten from the tree.
God will never allow evil to remain in his presence.
God judged each of the characters in the story. He cast Adam and Eve out of the garden and away from His presence. He promised One who would come to kill the snake.
God keeps His promises. Although they did not die immediately, Adam and Eve's nature was changed.
God is the source of all grace. He didn't destroy Adam and Eve.
God made clothing for them out of animal skins.*
- ◆ **APPLICATION** *(Optional questions that also work well in smaller groups)*
 - What did you notice from the story for the first time?
 - What questions do you have about the story? What do you wonder about?
 - How did the story challenge or encourage you?
 - Are we like Adam and Eve or different from them? How?
 - When have you had to face the consequences for doing something wrong or a bad decision?
 - How do you choose between right and wrong?
 - Where does evil come from?