



Day 2: A Terrible Thing

Let's Start

ASK: Think of some rules you have, either at school or at home. What happens if you break them?

SAY: In God's good garden, there was only one rule...

Let's Listen to God

READ: Genesis 2:16-17

16 The Lord God gave [Adam] a command. He said, "You may eat fruit from any tree in the garden. 17 But you must not eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you do, you will certainly die."

ASK: What did God tell the first people not to do?
What would happen if they broke the rule?

READ: Genesis 3:1-6

1 The serpent was more clever than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. The serpent said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat fruit from any tree in the garden'?"

2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden. 3 But God did say, 'You must not eat the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden. Do not even touch it. If you do, you will die.'"

4 "You will certainly not die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "God knows that when you eat fruit from that tree, you will know things you have never known before. Like God, you will be able to tell the difference between good and evil."

6 The woman saw that the tree's fruit was good to eat and pleasing to look at. She also saw that it would make a person wise. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her. And he ate it.

ASK: Who did the first people listen to—God or the snake?
What did they decide to do?
Did you notice WHY they decided to eat the fruit?

Let's Learn

SAY: The first people had been given a beautiful garden, with trees and plants for food, life forever, and God himself living with them! There was only one thing that was not for them: they were not allowed to decide what was right and wrong. They were not in charge. God was. But then, one day, the people did a terrible thing.

Despite all the amazing gifts that God had given them, the first people disobeyed God's one rule. They ate the fruit because they thought it would make them like God. They were saying they wanted a world without God in charge. The Bible calls this sin, and sin spoils things as we'll see.

Even though we are no longer in the Garden of Eden, God is still in charge of this world, and every day we make the same choice: whether to let God be in charge of our lives or act like we are the boss.

Let's Pray

Say: "Lord God, please show us all the ways in which we like to act as if we're in charge, and we ignore or disobey you. Amen."

Adapted from "The Garden, the Curtain, and the Cross" family devotional guide. 2020