

Unit 6: God, the Just and Merciful

Unit Big Question (and Answer): How Did Bad Things Come to God's Good World?
Bad Things Came through Sin!

Unit Bible Verse: "Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned." Romans 5:12

Bible Truth 1 Concept: Bad Things Came through Sin... When Adam and Eve Chose to Disobey God

God made the world good. He gave Adam and Eve good laws to live by, so that they would live happily with Him forever. God warned Adam and Eve that terrible things would happen if they disobeyed Him and His good laws. At first, Adam and Eve wanted to obey God. They loved knowing Him and living His way. But then, Satan, God's enemy, came to Adam and Eve. He lied to them and tempted them to disobey God... and they did! Adam and Eve thought their lives would be better when they disobeyed God, but they were wrong. NOTHING good came from disobeying God, but only the sad things God warned them would happen. And happen, they did! A terrible change happened in their spirits. They no longer enjoyed the same special closeness with God that they first had with Him. They didn't love each other in the same way, either. They became afraid and selfish and rebellious. Something happened in their bodies, too. Now, they hurt and got sick. One day, they would die.

God is good and just. He hates sin. Adam and Eve now deserved His punishment and death. How very sad! But God isn't ONLY just. He is also very, very merciful. He treats us better than we deserve. God promised that one day He would send a Savior to put an end to Satan, sin, and death. He would save people from their sins. That Savior was Jesus! Through faith in Him, we can be forgiven our sins and have special closeness with God. Thank You, God!

Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse: Genesis 2:16; 3:6,7,17,19, NIV 1984

"The LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but...you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it... you will surely die.' ... [Eve] too some [fruit] and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of them both were opened... 'Because you... ate from the tree, you must not eat, cursed is the ground because of you... By the sweat of the brow you will eat until you return to the ground.'"

Learn a Little: The LORD God commanded the man, "You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it... you will surely die."

Meaning

How sad it was when Adam and Eve disobeyed God! How sad that sin came into the world. Praise God for sending Jesus to save all who turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior!

Bible Truth 1 ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, God, for being holy and just. You hate sin and are fair to punish us for how we have disobeyed You and Your good laws.
- C** Adam and Eve chose to disobey Your good laws, long ago. We have chosen to disobey You many times, too. We want to say sorry to You for choosing to disobey You and ask that You would forgive us.
- T** Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to save us when we should only get punishment for disobeying You. You. Thank You for promising to forgive the sins of all who turn away from disobeying You and trust in Jesus as their Savior.
- S** When we are tempted to sin, help us to choose to obey You. Work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from disobeying You and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Save us from Your punishment for sins. We want to get to love You and enjoy You forever. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Bible Truth 1 Story**The Case of the Terrible, Terrible Day**

Songs Used in Bible Truth 1

Big Question 6 (Unit) Bible Verse Song: Sin, Sin, Sin Romans 5:12

Big Question 6 Hymn: Nothing But the Blood of Jesus, v.1

Big Question 6 Praise Song: I Will Sing of the Mercies

Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse Song: You Must Not Eat, Eat, Eat Genesis 2, 3, NIV 1984

Bible Truth 1 Extra Bible Verse Song: For the Wages of Sin Is Death Romans 6:23

listen to or download songs for free at <https://praisefactory.org>: Deep Down Detectives Music page

The Case of the Terrible, Terrible Day

Genesis 2,3



Story-telling Tips

Ahead of time:

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Choose story action cues and/or prepare storyboard figures, if using. (Included in Visual Aids book)
3. Practice telling story with the storyboard pictures, timing your presentation. Shorten, if necessary.

During your presentation:

1. Maintain as much eye contact as possible as you tell the story.
2. Put up storyboard figures/add story action cues as you tell the story. Allow the children to help you put them on the board, if desired.
3. Include the children in your story with a few questions about what they think will happen or words/concepts that might be new to them.
4. Watch the kids for signs that their attention span has been reached. Shorten, if necessary.

INTRODUCTION/ LISTENING ASSIGNMENTS

“Our story is called: The Case of the Terrible, Terrible Day. Here is your listening assignment.” Read from Detective Dan’s Listening Assignment signs, but questions are summarized below:

Detective Dan’s Lesson #1 Listening Assignment:

I need to know:

- 1. What happened to Adam and Eve on the Terrible, Terrible Day?**
- 2. What did God promise to do to help them (and all of us)?**

Detective Dan’s Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible Verse is Genesis 2:16; 3:6,7,17,19, NIV 1984

“The LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but...you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it... you will surely die.’ ... [Eve] too some [fruit] and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of them both were opened... ‘Because you... ate from the tree, you must not eat, cursed is the ground because of you... By the sweat of the brow you will eat until you return to the ground.”

I need to know:

- 1. What were Adam and Eve tempted to do? What happened when they gave into temptation?**
- 2. What did God promise to do to help them (and all of us)?**

Detective Dan’s Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found six clues, but two of them are **NOT** in the story.

They are: a serpent; a tree; a spaceship; a Savior; a cookie; and a grave.

Hold each of them up for the children to see as you identify them.

I need to know:

- 1. Which four belong in the story and which two don’t?**
- 2. Who needed to ask God to forgive their sins and save them?**

Read the assignment questions, THEN SAY,

“Ok, Deep Down Detectives! Put on your best listening ears and see if you can hear the answers to Detective Dan’s questions. When I finish telling the story, we will see if we can answer all the questions.”

Read the Bible Truth story, answer questions, present the gospel and lead in prayer.

Answers to questions; the gospel; and, ACTS prayer are included with the story text.

The Case of the Terrible, Terrible Day*Genesis 2,3**Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics)*

The LORD God made a special home for Adam and Eve, the people He had created. Was it a tepee? Was it a tent? Was it a big, brick mansion?

What do you think?

No, it was none of those kinds of homes. This home was a garden: the Garden of Eden. Eden was a very special place. So special, that there has never been another place like it on earth. It was very beautiful. It was filled with many kinds of plants and trees. A river flowed through it and watered all of the beautiful plants and trees. But what made this special home best of all? It was the Perfect Wonderfulness of God's love for Adam and Eve, and their love for God and each other.

Eden was a lovely place to live with all of those plants and trees. But the trees were more than just lovely to look at. They were covered in deliciousness. Can you guess what God made grow on the trees?

Can you guess?

They were covered with yummy fruit! Bunches of fruit, fat, ripe, and juicy, hung from the tree branches. "Feel free to eat from any of these trees. I have put them here for you to enjoy and eat!" God told Adam and Eve.

And eat, Adam and Eve did! They could walk along in the garden and pluck the fruit. Their mouths would be filled with delicious sweetness and juice would drip down their chins. Yum! Yum! Yum!

Besides all these fruit trees for eating, God put two other trees in the garden, too.

These trees were not like the other trees. One was called the Tree of Life. Through it, God offered people life that went on and on and on. The other one was the Tree of Knowing Good and Evil.

God warned Adam and Eve about this second tree. "Do NOT eat from the Tree of Knowing Good and Evil," He told them. "Live My good way and you will forever enjoy the Perfect Wonderfulness of life with Me and with each other in this beautiful world I've made. But if you turn away from My good way and eat from this one tree, you will surely die," He promised them.

Oh, no! Adam and Eve did NOT want to die! They did NOT want to lose the special closeness they had with God. They did not want to lose the life God had given them with Him and each other in this beautiful, new world. No, they would NOT eat from that Tree. They would live within the good laws God had given them. God loved them and He knew what was best for them! They trusted Him.

So, for a while, the Perfect Wonderfulness of God's beautiful world remained. (SB6) Adam and Eve enjoyed eating from the many trees in the Garden of Eden. And, they stayed away from these two special trees God had put in the middle... especially that Tree of Knowing Good and Evil.

But then one day, something terrible happened. God's enemy, Satan, came. Satan (SB8) hated God and His good plan for the world. He decided to trick Adam and Eve into disobeying God. He wanted to break God's good plan. He wanted to hurt the people whom God loved.

Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics)

Satan decided to use the serpent, one of God's creatures, to trick Adam and Eve into disobeying God. The serpent went to Adam and Eve, and Satan did his talking through him: "Did God say, 'You can't eat the fruit from ANY tree in the garden?' he asked Eve.

"We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden," Eve told him, "But God said, 'Don't eat from the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden. We shouldn't even touch it! Or we will die.'"

Now Satan lied to Eve. "You will not die. For God knows that when you eat that fruit you will start to know as much as He knows. He knows you will be like Him, knowing good and bad," he told her.

Eve listened to what Satan said. He made it seem like God was keeping something good from them. She liked to think she might be like God. That sounded better than just being a human. Maybe living within God's laws wasn't really so good after all. Maybe God hadn't given them Perfect Wonderfulness. Maybe He was keeping it from them! Should she keep trusting God?

Eve was tempted to believe what Satan said and disobey God. Run away, Eve, run away! Don't give in!

But DID Eve run away? DID she turn to Adam or to God for help?

What do you think she did?

Eve did NOT run away. She did NOT turn to Adam or to God for help. Instead, she went up to that tree and looked carefully at the fruit on the tree. 'It looks so beautiful and so yummy!' she thought. 'And best of all, it will make me wise like God!'

Satan watched as Eve reached out and took some of the tree's fruit. She held it and then, she ate it. Then she held some out to Adam to eat. Run away, Adam! Don't eat it! What do you think Adam did?

What do you think?

Adam did the same thing Eve had done. He took the fruit and ate it, too.

Satan's trick had worked! Adam and Eve had disobeyed God. Now, their wonderful, special closeness with God was broken. Now, they would die!

Sad changes happened in Adam and Eve as soon as they sinned. They sewed tree leaves together to cover up their bare bodies. They wanted to hide from each other. They wanted to hide from God, too. When they heard Him coming to see them, they hid among the trees. Could they keep God from seeing them?

What do you think?

No one can hide from God. He knows and sees everything. God knew exactly what had happened. "Where are you?" He asked Adam.

Adam answered God from his hiding place: "I heard you coming and hid from You. I was afraid for You to see me without clothes," Adam said.

God made Adam and Eve tell what had happened. They made excuses. They blamed others. But there was no denying the truth. The serpent had helped Satan trick them; but, they had chosen to disobey God and eat the fruit. Sin had come into God's good world. Now, many other sad and bad things would come, too.

Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics)

God gave out sad punishments to the serpent and to Adam and Eve. They had all gone against His good ways. Sin had come into God's good world. Now they all faced the consequences.

"Serpent, I am changing what you look like," God told him. "Now you will slither along the ground on your belly the rest of your life, as the lowest of creatures. I want you to be ashamed of what you have done."

God told Eve the sad consequences of her sin, too: "Eve, having children will hurt now. You will have a hard time being happy obeying your husband."

Last of all, God gave Adam his consequences: "Adam, you will have to grow your own food now, and weeds will ruin your crops. You will have to work really hard," God told him. "You won't get to live here in the Garden anymore. You won't get to eat from the Tree of Life. Now you, and Eve, and your children after you will suffer sickness. You will grow old, and your bodies will die. Worst of all, you and Eve can't have wonderful, special closeness with Me like before. You must leave the garden and My special presence."

What a terrible day that was! The punishments God gave them were really hard, but Adam and Eve knew they deserved these sad consequences. God was good and His punishments were just.

But God was merciful that day, too. He gave them something better than they deserved. He made them a promise. He gave them HOPE. One day, He would send a Savior. He would be one of their sons. He would put an end to Satan, once and for all. Adam and Eve believed God's promise and trusted in Him. They looked forward to the day when this son would come and crush their enemy.

God didn't tell Adam and Eve the name of this Savior who would crush Satan, but I bet you know His name.

Can you tell me His name?

It's Jesus! And at just the right time, many, many years later, Jesus was born. And while He was a son of Adam and Eve, born by His mother, Mary, Jesus was also GOD'S SON, too. Jesus grew up to be a man and He taught about God and did amazing things. Like Adam and Eve, Satan came to tempt Him to disobey God; but UNLIKE them, Jesus did NOT sin! Instead, He lived a perfect life, then He gave it up on the cross. He suffered and died there as the perfect payment for the sins of all who trust in Him as their Savior. He took the punishment they deserved for their sins, so they wouldn't have to.

Jesus died and was buried in a cave-grave that sad day. Oh, no! The Savior was DEAD? Was He really any different from Adam and Eve?

What do you think?

Oh, yes, He was! For on the third day, Jesus rose up from the dead, never to die again. He had beaten sin and death for all who put their trust in Him!

Jesus went up to heaven in victory. From there, He is still helping God's people. He sends the Holy Spirit to live in their hearts. He prays for them. And, He is at work, completing all of God's great plans.

And on that wonderful day, when God's plans are completed, Jesus will come back again. He will put an end to Satan forever. Satan will be crushed, just as God promised! Then, God will make a beautiful, new world, with no sin in it, for His people to live in with Him forever. It will be even better than the beautiful garden, in that perfect world, Adam and Eve enjoyed long ago. And this time, the Perfect Wonderfulness will last forever. We can be God's people and be there, too, if we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to help you. He loves to do this!

Cracking the Case: (story wrap-up for Listening Assignments)

It's time to see how we did with our Listening Assignment.

Detective Dan's Lesson 1 Listening Assignment:

1. What happened to Adam and Eve on the Terrible, Terrible Day? They disobeyed God and lost the perfect life and fellowship with God that He had given them.

2. What did God promise to do to help them (and all of us)? To send a Son to crush the enemy and save them.

For You and Me:

Adam and Eve did not know the name of the Savior God would send, but we do! It's Jesus! He came at just the right time to crush Satan and make the way for us to be saved from our sins. He can be our Savior, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. Ask Him to help you! He loves to do this!

Detective Dan's Lesson 2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Genesis 2:16; 3:6,7,17,19**

"The LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but...you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it... you will surely die.' ... [Eve] too some [fruit] and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of them both were opened... 'Because you... ate from the tree, you must not eat, cursed is the ground because of you... By the sweat of the brow you will eat until you return to the ground."

I need to find out:

1. What were Adam and Eve tempted to do? What happened when they gave into temptation? They were tempted to disobey God and eat the fruit of the Tree of Knowing Good and Evil. They lost their perfect friendship and life with God when they disobeyed Him. This is how sin and bad things came into God's good world.

2. What did God promise to do to help them (and all of us)? To send a Son to crush the enemy and save them.

For You and Me

Adam and Eve did not know the name of the Savior God would send, but we do! It's Jesus! He came at just the right time to crush Satan and make the way for us to be saved from our sins. He can be our Savior, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. Ask Him to help you! He loves to do this!

Detective Dan's Lesson 3 Listening Assignment:

Our six clues were: a serpent; a tree; a spaceship; a Savior; a cookie; and a grave.

1. Which four belong in our story?

The serpent, tree, Savior and grave belong.

2. Who needed to ask God to forgive their sins and save them? Adam and Eve did.

For You and Me:

Adam and Eve were not the only people who chose to disobey God and His good ways. We all have! We need a Savior, just as much as they do. Jesus can be our Savior, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. Ask Him to help you! He loves to do this!

The Gospel (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)**Our Bible Truth is:****How Did Bad Things Come to God's Good World?****Bad Things Came through Sin...****When Adam and Eve Chose to Disobey God!**

What a terrible thing happened when Adam and Eve sinned! How sad and lonely they were when they lost that special closeness they had with God! But how kind God was to them in promising to send them Jesus to save them from their sins one day! Jesus came and took the punishment for the sins of God's people when He suffered and died on the cross. On Day Three, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. Now, all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior can be saved and get to be God's people. They deserved God's punishment, but through Jesus, their sins are forgiven. God gives them new hearts, to know and love Him. And best yet, God promises to bring them home to live with Him forever. If we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus, God will do all of this for us, too. Ask Him to help you! He loves to answer this prayer!

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, God, for being holy and just. You hate sin and are fair to punish us for how we have disobeyed You and Your good laws.
- C** Adam and Eve chose to disobey Your good laws, long ago. We have chosen to disobey You many times, too. We want to say sorry to You for choosing to disobey You and ask that You would forgive us.
- T** Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to save us when we should only get punishment for disobeying You. You. Thank You for promising to forgive the sins of all who turn away from disobeying You and trust in Jesus as their Savior.
- S** When we are tempted to sin, help us to choose to obey You. Work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from disobeying You and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Save us from Your punishment for sins. We want to get to love You and enjoy You forever.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Go to Lesson Plan, p.9 for the script to the rest of the lesson.