



# Weaving God's Promises

## LESSON 1

### Fall and Exile from the Garden of Eden

#### Summary of Today's Story

After God created the world, God created the first man, called *Adam*.

Adam gives names to all of the animals, and then is given a partner, a woman whom he names *Eve*. Their home is a garden called *Eden*. They are told by God that they may eat any of the fruit from the garden except the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, but Adam and Eve disobey God by eating the forbidden fruit. God sends them out of the Garden of Eden.

#### Where You'll Find Today's Story

##### **In the Bible**

We recommend the *New Revised Standard Version* Bible.

**Genesis 2–3**

##### **In Children's Bibles**

If you plan to use a children's Bible for storytelling, write the page numbers of today's story in the space below.

##### **In Our Sunday Lectionary**

Today's story is told in church on the following Sundays:

Year A: First Sunday in Lent

Year B: Proper 5 (Sunday closest to June 1)

Year C: Proper 22 (Sunday closest to October 5)

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## Weaving Our Story with the Biblical Story

The Bible is like a book of chapters, with different stories about God and us. This is the beginning of *our* story.

When God created the world, all was “good.” But we turned against God. Today’s story is the story of the first time we failed God. There’s not much cheer at the end of this story, but it is only the first chapter: *how we messed up.*

Notice how we put ourselves first before God. The consequence is unbearable loss, not just for us but also for God, who mourns for us. By our sin we drive ourselves out of right relationship with God, out of righteousness. The punishment is death, where death is separation from God, the giver of life.

We can see how this could happen by looking at our own relationships now and in the past, how some of our actions might cause separation and alienation from our loved ones.

After this story come a series of stories that tell how we continually fail God by trusting in ourselves rather than trusting in God, and how God continues to stay with us, pardon us and save us, even as we repeatedly abandon God.

The next big experience of loss like this one is the loss of Israel, when the people are conquered and exiled from their Promised Land and sent into Babylonia. But that comes later. First let us deal with our own falling away from God.

Remember, though, that the primary message of the stories in the Bible, including today’s story, is that *God stays with us—no matter what.*



## The Episcopal Thread

In our Eucharistic Prayer C, we acknowledge our sinfulness. After praising God for creation of the wonderful universe, the celebrant says:

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another (*BCP*, p. 370).

Our proclivity toward sin is acknowledged in other places in our *Prayer Book*. We acknowledge our sinfulness in the General Confession (p. 330), which we say each week in Holy Eucharist. In times when we are unable to “cleanse ourselves from sin” (Psalm 51) through the General Confession, the Church allows a Rite of Penitence, a private confession made to a priest at times other than the Sunday Eucharist.

The story of the Fall is told in Lent. We recognize the finitude of our lives and bodies—without God, there is death—at our Ash Wednesday service. As the ashes are placed on our foreheads, the priest says to us, repeating God’s words to Adam and Eve as God sent them out of the Garden of Eden, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” We are not left with such hopelessness. The mark made on our forehead with ashes is the sign of the cross to remind us that in Christ—and through his death and resurrection—there is life.

Not all Christian denominations understand creation and sin the same way. Anglicans believe that creation is good because God made it. And we believe that humanity is good, though we do fall into sin. We do not believe, as the Calvinists do, in the “total depravity of humanity.” God made us, blessed us and called our creation “very good.” We turned away from God, but we are not inherently evil. We do sin but we cannot blame it on the “serpent.”



## Weaving God's Beloved Community

Adam and Eve in the land lost, and the land given. Two parties are involved in this story: the people who made a fatal choice, and the earth which suffers because of them.

Especially during the past century, we too have made choices that have brought havoc to the earth. The effects of our industrialized society, our waste and pollution of the earth's resources, and our lack of care for the flora and fauna with whom we share this planet all have led to a global environmental crisis.

Topics that can be discussed with children:

Adam and Eve's new land is full of thorns and weeds. How do you think they can take care of it? How can they make the land grow, and give food to us, and give food and shelter to the other creatures of the earth?

How can we help to make the earth a better place for all creatures to live?



### Gathering

As the children enter the room, have them do a simple, quiet, but fun activity connected with

creation. On pages 12-13, you'll find two Gathering Activity handouts to use if you wish. Or you might set out play dough and have the children mold a boy and girl resembling Adam and Eve. You could also bring in a few natural objects and have children glue the items onto a piece of construction paper to make a Garden of Eden scene.

As an option for the younger children, you might have them make finger puppets of the characters from today's story to use during Telling the Story. You'll find directions and patterns on pages 14-15 in the activity section at the end of this lesson.

As an option for older children, you might offer a brief fellowship time, giving the children an opportunity to visit with each other, establish friendships and build community. Relationships are an important dimension of Christian formation, so a few minutes of visiting will enrich their spiritual development.

After all the children have arrived and had a few minutes of activity or fellowship time, gather them together and say a simple opening prayer, for example:

- Thank you, Lord, for all of us being here. Please stay with us as we hear your story and learn about your love today. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son. *Amen.*

Another good prayer would be one from the Celtic tradition. If you have a book of Celtic prayers, use one of them. These prayers offer thanks and acknowledge God in all activities, no matter how small. You can make up your own Celtic-style prayer, like this one:

- God be in our hearts today,  
God be in our ears today as we listen,  
God be in our hands today as we create,  
God be in the things that we make, the words that we say, and the love that we give. *Amen.*



### Telling the Story

Read aloud today's story from a children's Bible, showing the pictures, tell the story in your own words, or read from the version of the story we provide, found on pages 8-11.

To bring the story to life, try one of these suggestions for enhanced storytelling:

- When telling the story, use voice inflections and hand movements.
- Use a flannel board with felt or paper figures as you are telling the story.

- Use a stock photo or computer image to set the scene for the story. For today's story, you could show a picture of a lush natural garden or a forest or a gentle waterfall with quiet pool.

There are many ways to bring a story to life for the children. Here are a few additional storytelling enhancements that would work well with this story:

*Puppets:* If the children made finger puppets during today's Gathering time, invite them to use the puppets as you tell the story.

*Story in a Bag:* Put a few props in a paper bag and pull out the appropriate items while telling the story.

For today's story, use:

- a couple of twigs or branches to symbolize the tree of knowledge of good and evil
- a piece of fruit
- a toy or stuffed lizard
- a toy or stuffed snake (remember, the serpent originally had legs!)
- large leaves for the humans' new clothes
- outlined paper dolls or something similar for Adam and Eve

*Interactive Storytelling:* Invite the children to listen for key words as you read or tell the story and then to respond as follows when they hear these words:

<i>God</i>	Praise to you! ( <i>Lift hands in air.</i> )
<i>Adam</i>	Welcome to earth!
<i>Eve</i>	Listen to God!
<i>Serpent</i>	BOOO!
<i>Walking</i>	Make walking noises by pounding hands on floor or thighs.

The story about Adam and Eve is an important part of this year's story—the story of our salvation—but you do not need to explain or analyze it, nor do you need to ask the children to explore its meaning at this time. For now, we just want the children to absorb the story in their minds and hearts and to remember its power. Later, while having snacks, you

can bring up the story again and invite the children to talk about it.



## Prayer

Set up a small worship center in your classroom.

### Materials

- small table with a cloth to cover it
- 2 candles or a single large Christ candle
- matches
- Bible
- cross
- optional:* flowers (real, fake or handmade by the children)

Have the children set up a simple altar with the materials listed above. Invite them to place on the altar any drawings or crafts that they created during the Gathering. Then light the candles.

Read one or two verses from today's scripture to help the children connect the story that they just heard with the Bible. If working with older children, you might expand the reading to several verses, though we recommend keeping the reading short.

Suggestions for the reading:

*For younger children:* Genesis 2:15

*For older children:* Genesis 2:15-17

Help familiarize the children with our liturgy by doing the reading as it is done in church. Read as follows:

*Reader:* A reading from the book of Genesis:  
(*Read the selected passage.*)

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

*All:* Thanks be to God.



Invite the children to sit in a circle and join in prayer. Say a brief prayer then invite prayers from each child in the circle:

- Ask for prayers of thanks for God's work in our lives during the past week—at home, at school, with family or friends. This helps the children to gradually gain an awareness of God's constant presence in their everyday lives.
- Welcome intercessory prayers, asking for God's help or presence. Encourage children to pray for themselves or for others who are in any need or trouble.
- Ask if anyone has had a birthday or celebrated a special day during the past week and give thanks for these special times.
- End the prayer time by praying together the Lord's Prayer.

Carefully extinguish the candles.



## Sharing

Pass out snacks and say a simple grace, such as:

- Bless, O Lord, this food to our use and us to your loving service, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

Or share a favorite grace that you or one of the children say at home.

This is an excellent time, while sharing a snack, to begin talking about the story that the children have just heard and to elicit their reactions to it. As you share food and drink with each other, encourage everyone to share their feelings and thoughts.

There may be many questions about what Adam and Eve did and about God's response to their wrongdoing, for example:

- What did Adam and Eve do that was wrong?
- Have you ever done something like Adam and Eve did? Maybe you did something someone told you not to do?
- How do we disobey God?

Some say that the first sin was pride, or trying to be like God, or simply disobeying God's command.

Ask:

- What do you think?

Remind children that God did *not* sentence these people to death, that humans in effect sentenced themselves to alienation and separation from God.



## Activities: Arts, Crafts, Games, Drama, etc.

After Sharing, begin an activity to supplement and enhance today's story. While the children are doing an activity, talk about the story so they make the connection.

Suggested story-related activities are provided at the end of this lesson. These activities about Adam and Eve in the garden are meant to reinforce the idea that God loves us and stays with us, no matter what. God loved and stayed with Adam and Eve, even though God would not allow them to live in the Garden of Eden with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Additional activity ideas can be found on pages 3-6 in the Appendix where we've provided suggestions and directions for a variety of general activities that can be adapted to any lesson. Also included are outreach and service projects that can be done at any time.



## THREADS Take-Home Paper

At the end of this lesson you will find a two-page take-home paper for families called *Threads*. *Threads* provides parents with a briefer version of the information on scripture and Episcopal faith found in the introduction to the lesson, as well as multiple suggestions for household activities and prayer. Parents can use *Threads* to continue each child's classroom experience at home throughout the week. We suggest duplicating and distributing these two pages to children and/or their parents at the end of each lesson.

### ACTIVITIES FOR THIS WEEK'S SESSION

A large green rectangular area with a marbled pattern, containing 18 horizontal lines for writing activities.



## Memorization

Invite the older (intermediate) children to begin memorizing the books of the Bible, beginning with the Old Testament books. By the time these children enter junior high, they should know the placement of the books of the Bible so they can quickly turn to Bible passages.

You'll find suggestions for ways to help the children with their memorization on page 15 in the Appendix, also found on the Website.



## Weaving Our Faith

As the class draws to a close, help the children weave today's lesson together with their life experiences and their own thoughts and ideas by asking questions such as:

- What was our story about today?
- What did we learn from this story?
- What did we learn about God?
- What did we learn about ourselves?

Encourage the children to remember key words or phrases from today's story, such as:

- *obey*
- *sin*
- *God stays with us.*



## Closing Prayer

Before the children leave, say a closing prayer to send them into the church worship service or back to their homes with God's love and blessing.

The prayer can be very simple, such as this one:

- Thank you, God, for being here with us today. Send us now back to our homes, our families and friends in peace. May we spread your love to all whom we meet this week. This we ask in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

End the class with a dismissal that is used in church, such as:

- Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

The children respond:

- Thanks be to God!



# Weaving God's Promises

## GENESIS 2-3

### God Creates the World

This is God's story about us. Science tells us how we were made. God's story tells us why we are here. This is a story about how God made us to be with God, and how we messed up.

In the very beginning of the world, there is only ground, it is just dust, and nothing grows on it because there's no rain yet. Then out of the ground a little stream of water bubbles up and waters the ground so it becomes dirt, and then green grasses, and then plants and trees.

Then God takes some of the dust, and God makes it into the form of a man, with eyes and nose and mouth, hands and feet and body. Then—because God's breath is the breath of life—God blows some of God's breath into the nostrils of the man. Now the man is alive. He is called Adam.

Then God plants a wonderful garden in a place called Eden. God puts trees with fruit for the man to eat, trees that are just pretty to look at, one single tree called the *tree of life*, and one single tree called the *tree of the knowledge of good and evil*. Then God plunks the man down into the middle of this garden and says to him,

“Now look at all these trees with wonderful fruit that is good for you to eat. You can eat the fruit from every single tree except this tree here, the one I call the *tree of the knowledge of good and evil*. If you eat the fruit from that tree, you will die. But look, you have lots of other things to eat and enjoy!”



## God Creates Humans

And then God looks around. God sees that this man is all by himself in this garden. So God says, “It’s not good for this man to be all by himself. I’ll make him a partner!” So God took some of the dust, like when God made the man, and God made animals to be with the man. God made cows and horses, lizards and frogs, dogs and cats, and what else?

The man gives names to all the animals. He names the long, slimy one a *snake*, and the big bird with the long neck he calls an *ostrich*. He sees a strange creature digging in the dirt and calls it an *anteater* because that’s what it does. He gives names to all the fishes and the birds and the bats and mice and crawly things and cuddly things—and then the man is tired.

But out of all these animals, the man can’t find a partner, someone he could talk to and laugh with and just sit with. So God makes him a partner who looks like him. She has eyes, nose and mouth, two arms and two legs and a body. She talks like he does. She becomes his partner and friend. She is Eve.

## The First Sin

Now one of the creatures that God made is a smart creature called a serpent. The serpent can talk. We don’t know why he did what we are about to hear him do, but this is God’s story, not our story. And in God’s story, this is what happens when we disobey God.

Eve is sitting by herself, and the serpent comes up to her. He says, “Did God say you can eat any fruit in this garden?”

Eve says, “God told us we can eat any fruit except the one from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil—that tree over there in the middle of the garden. He told us that if we eat that fruit, we will die.”

But the serpent says, “Oh, no, you won’t really die. God just told you that because it’s a special fruit. If you eat it, you will know what’s good and what’s bad, and you will be just like God. Don’t you want to be like God?”

Eve looks at the tree again. The fruit looks pretty. It looks good to eat. And she does want to be wise. Who wouldn't? So she picks a piece of the fruit, wipes it off, and takes a bite. It *is* good. And nothing happened—she's still alive!

So she takes her piece of fruit and goes off to find her partner, Adam. He looks a little surprised when he sees her with this delicious piece of fruit in her hand. When she holds it out to him, he takes a bite, too.

It doesn't happen all of a sudden, like a lightning bolt or a rug swept out from under them or a magic spell. But it just happens. Now they know what they didn't know before. Now they know they are naked and need to hide their private parts from each other. So they take some big leaves—that's the first thing they can find—and they make some clothes and put them on.

### **God Finds Out What Adam and Eve Did**

Then Adam and Eve hear a sound. They hear the sound of God walking in the garden in the cool of the evening. They know that God will be angry, so they hide from God in the thick trees. But you can't hide from God.

God calls out to Adam, "Where are you?" even though God knows perfectly well where he is.

Adam doesn't know how to lie yet, so he comes out from behind his tree and says, "I heard you coming in the garden and I was afraid, because I was naked. So I hid. Here I am."

God knows that Adam would only know he's naked if he has eaten that fruit. So God says, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from that tree—that one single tree that I told you not to eat from? That one tree?"

Adam says, "Well, this woman here handed it to me, so I ate it."

God turns to Eve, who is as afraid as Adam. God says, "So, what did you just do?"

Just like the man blamed the woman, so the woman blames the serpent. “That serpent over there, he tricked me! I ate it because he talked me into it! It wasn’t my fault!”

God looks at the serpent, who hides trembling behind a tree. And God looks at Eve, and then Adam. They have done very wrong.

So, because the tree of life is still in that garden in Eden, God drives Adam and Eve out of that garden. And then God puts some of his heavenly beings, called the cherubim, to guard the way and to keep out anyone who tries to get in. With a flaming sword, the cherubim stand guard over the Garden of Eden, the paradise that God had made for us.



# Weaving God's Promises

## GATHERING ACTIVITY YOUR ANIMAL CREATION

One more animal is needed for the Garden of Eden. If you could create your own animal, what would it look like? Draw it below.

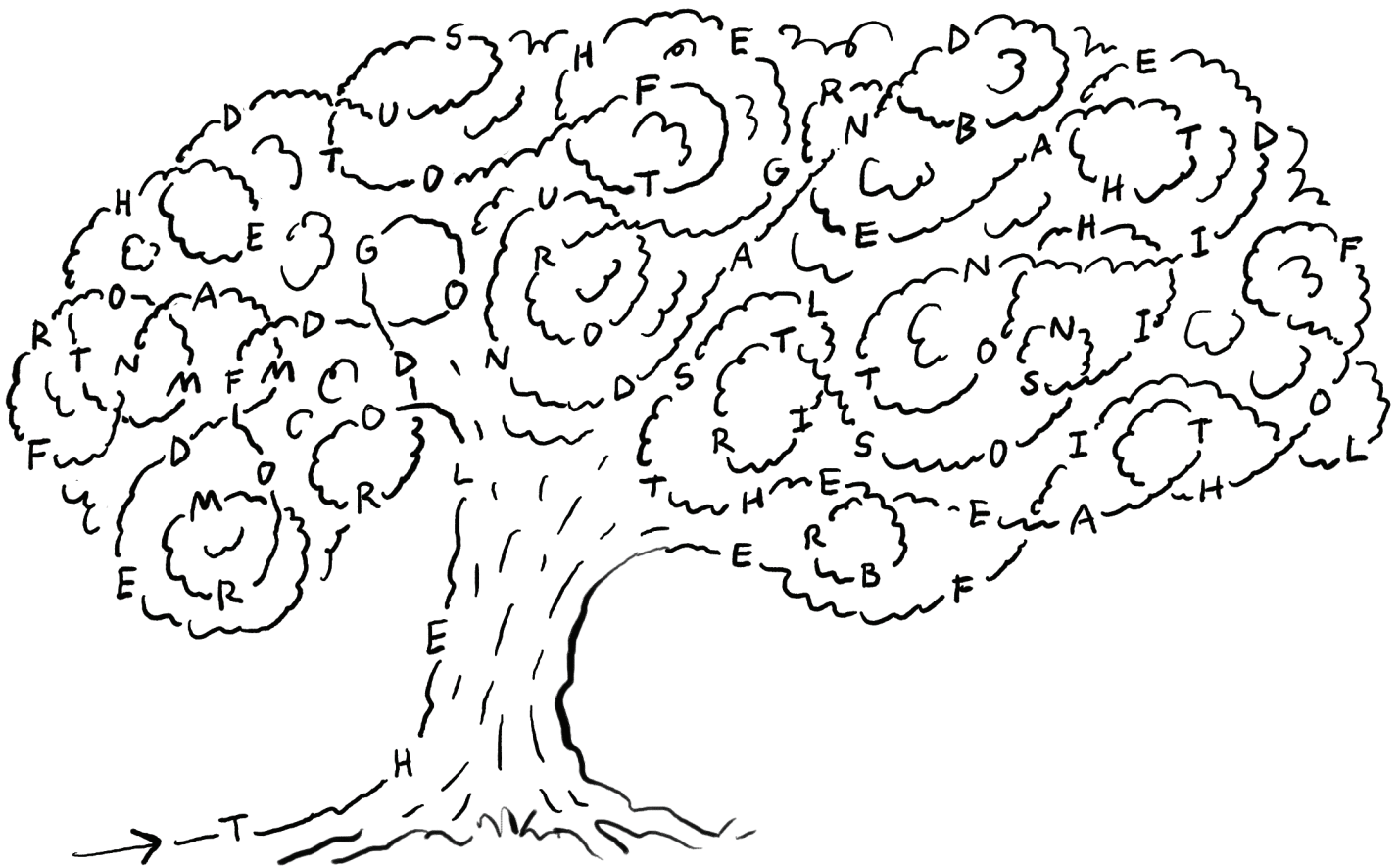




# Weaving God's Promises

## GATHERING ACTIVITY ADAM AND EVE

Follow the line of this tree to find out what the Bible says about how God made the first man.



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(Genesis 2:7, NRSV).



# Weaving God's Promises

## FINGER PUPPETS for Preschool

Children make finger puppets of the characters from today's story. If you have the children make these puppets during today's Gathering time, they can use them to interact with you during today's storytelling time.

### Materials:

*Puppet Patterns* (p. 15)

scissors

crayons or markers

toilet tissue, wrapping paper or paper towel tube

tape or stapler

*optional*: pieces of fabric, fake hair

### Preparation:

Make copies of the *Puppet Patterns*. Cut out one puppet for each child. Cut the tube into 1" rings.

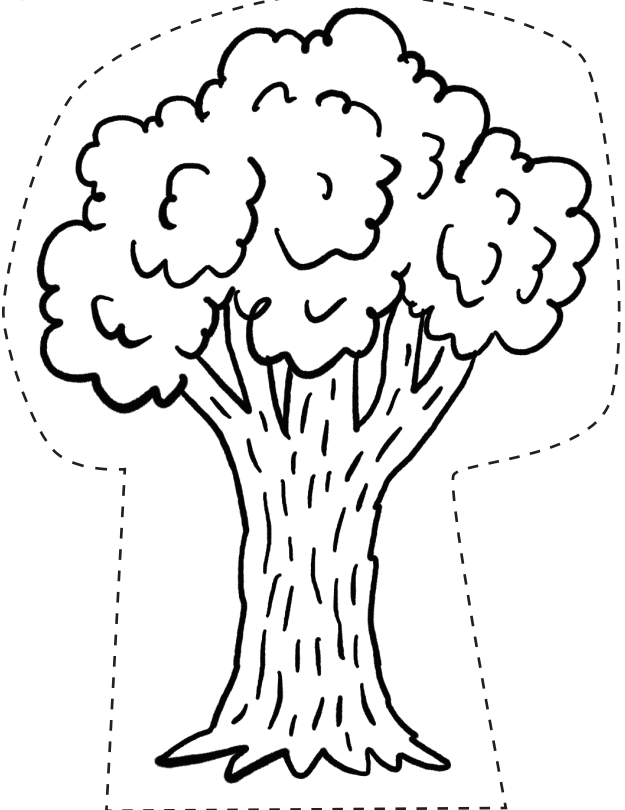
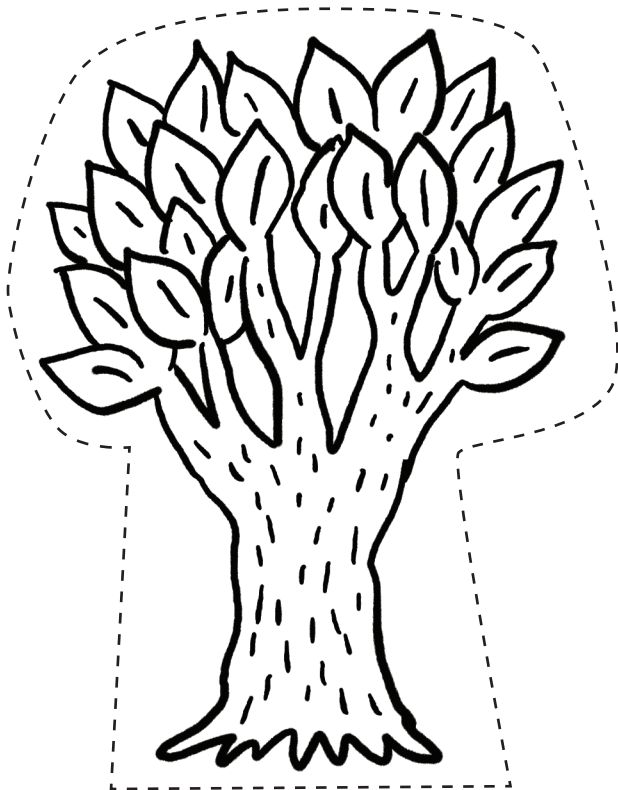
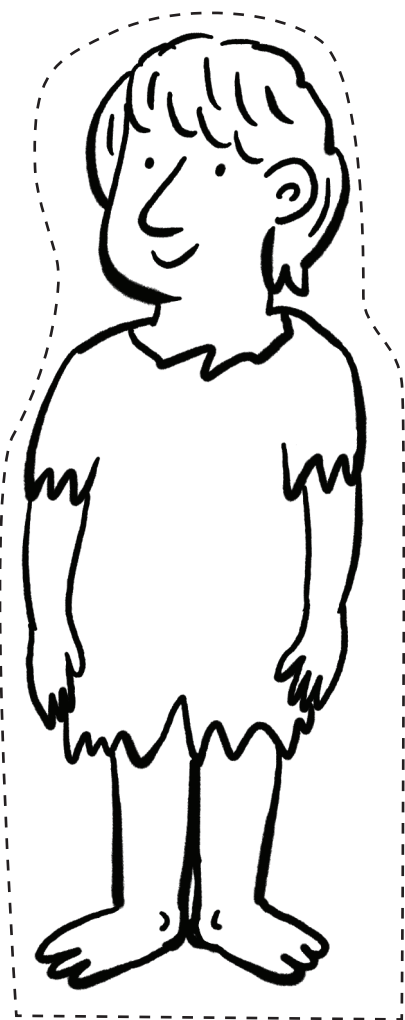
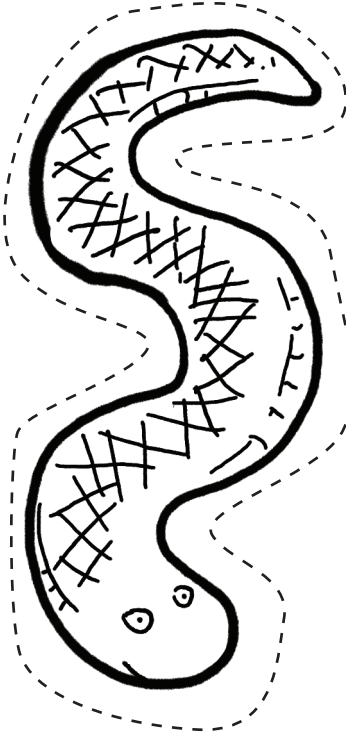
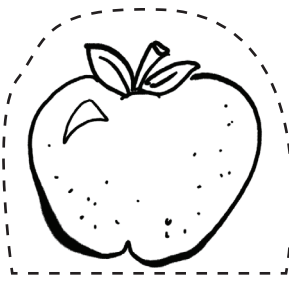
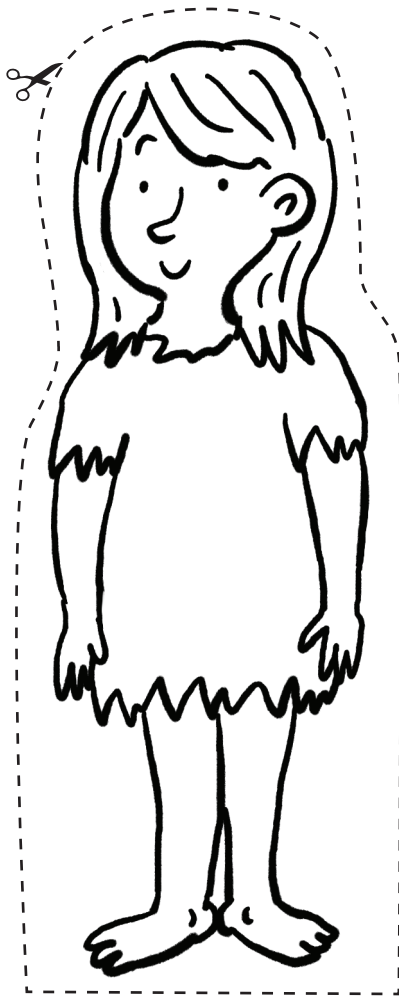
### Directions:

Distribute the cut-out figures and invite each child to make a simple finger puppet:

1. Have children color their puppet figures then help them attach their puppets to tube rings.
2. To attach a puppet to a tube ring:
  - Hold the puppet upright on the table and place a tube ring at the back, circle facing up-down. This will ensure that the puppet can stand on the floor or table if not used on the finger.
  - Then staple or tape the tube onto the back of the puppet.

### Variation:

For a fancier puppet, provide fabrics and fake hair to decorate the figures.





# Weaving God's Promises

## APPLES HAVE THEIR GOOD SIDE! for Preschool, Primary

Children don't eat these apples; they use them as stamps.

### Materials:

apples, 1 per child  
knife to cut apples (*for teacher only*)  
tempera paint  
construction paper or white paper  
plain wrapping paper or butcher paper, cut in sheets  
styrofoam food trays  
paper towels

### Preparation:

Cut each apple horizontally so that the star design on the bottom of the apple shows. This is the stamp. To make a stamp pad, saturate folded paper towels with tempera paint in disposable food trays. Make two or three stamp pads of different colors.

### Directions:

Show the children how to gently press the star design of the apple on the stamp pad then firmly press the paint-coated apple on the paper. Then invite them to make one of the following:

- *a note card*: Fold a piece of construction or white paper in half and make an apple impression on the front.
- *wrapping paper*: Press the paint-coated apple on a large sheet of light-weight paper, making several impressions to create a design. Use all the colors available to make the design more interesting.
- *a place mat*: On a piece of construction paper, make an apple impression in two corners, diagonally opposite each other—or create an original design!





# Weaving God's Promises

## ADAM AND EVE POP-UP BOOKS for Primary

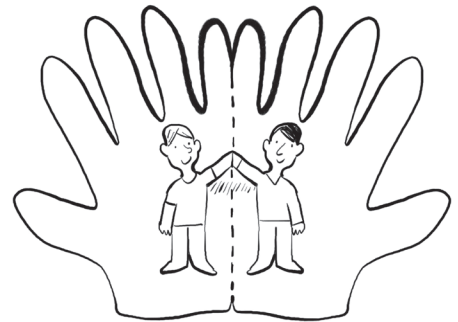
Children make simple pop-up books with Adam and Eve hidden between folded hands.

### Materials:

- construction paper
- 9" x 12" pink or tan construction paper
- scissors
- tape
- crayons or markers, pencils

### Preparation:

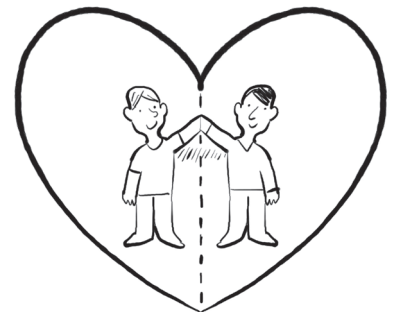
Fold the construction paper in half and draw a simple doll figure on it, with one arm on the fold (see diagram) and cut out the figure. Make one for each child.



### Directions:

Hand out the cut-out paper doll and invite each child to make an Adam and Eve pop-up book. Help the younger children as needed. Give the children these directions:

1. Fold a piece of construction paper in half and place your hand on the paper with the outside of the hand and pinky finger along the fold. Trace around your hand with a pencil.
2. Cut out your hand pattern, making sure to keep the fold intact. Put a dot on the inside part of each hand, about 3" apart. This will be the cover of your book.
3. Color the paper doll (on both sides of the fold), making one side Adam and the other side Eve. Then fold the two outer arms of the paper doll backwards at the "wrist" position.
4. Put a dab of glue on each dot inside the hand-shaped cover and glue the free arms of the doll to the dots, making sure that the decorated part of the figures show. (Check that the children have glued the Adam and Eve figure in correctly so it pops up when the hand is opened.)





# Weaving God's Promises

## SNAKES IN THE GARDEN

for Preschool, Primary

Children make snakes from paper plates.

### Materials:

- paper plates, 1 per child
- scissors
- markers or crayons

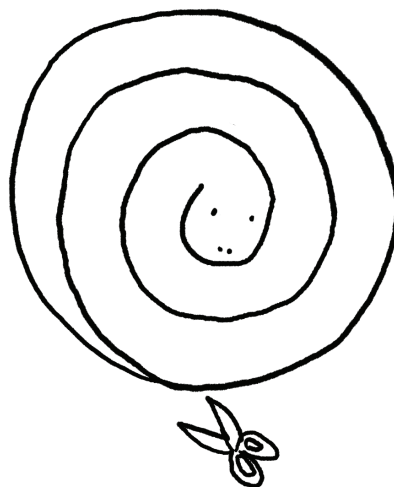
### Preparation:

On each plate, draw a spiral. At the center of the spiral, in the middle of the plate, draw the face of a snake. Older primary children may want to draw the faces themselves.

### Directions:

Hand out the prepared paper plates and invite each child to make a spiral snake. Help the younger children as needed. Give the children these directions:

1. Color your snake with markers or crayons.
2. Cut the paper plates along the spiral line.
3. Attach a piece of string to your snake for hanging.





# Weaving God's Promises

## ANGELS WITH FLAMING SWORDS for Preschool, Primary

Children make stand-up angels with “flaming swords” resembling the angel that God placed at the entrance to the Garden of Eden to guard the way to the tree of life.

### Materials:

*Angel Pattern* (p. 20)  
toilet paper tubes  
crayons or markers  
frilly party toothpicks  
scissors

### Preparation:

Make copies of the *Angel Pattern*, one for each child.

### Directions:

Pass out the *Angel Pattern* and invite each child to make a special angel. Help the younger children as needed. Give the children these directions:

1. Cut out and color your angel.
2. With the end of a toothpick, carefully make small holes where shown on the hand of the angel.
3. Give your angel a “flaming sword” by poking a toothpick in the top hole and out the other hole, with the frill on top.
4. Put a strip of glue along the side of a toilet paper tube and press the angel onto it. Make sure to keep the bottom of the angel's dress level with the bottom of the tube so that the angel will stand up.



# ANGEL PATTERN







# Weaving God's Promises

## GARDEN OF EDEN STORY WHEELS for Elementary, Intermediate

Children make story wheels that tell today's story.

### Materials:

paper plates, 1 per child  
copies of the *Story Wheel Patterns* (pp. 22-23)  
paper fasteners  
crayons or markers  
paper clips  
glue  
transparent tape  
scissors

### Preparation:

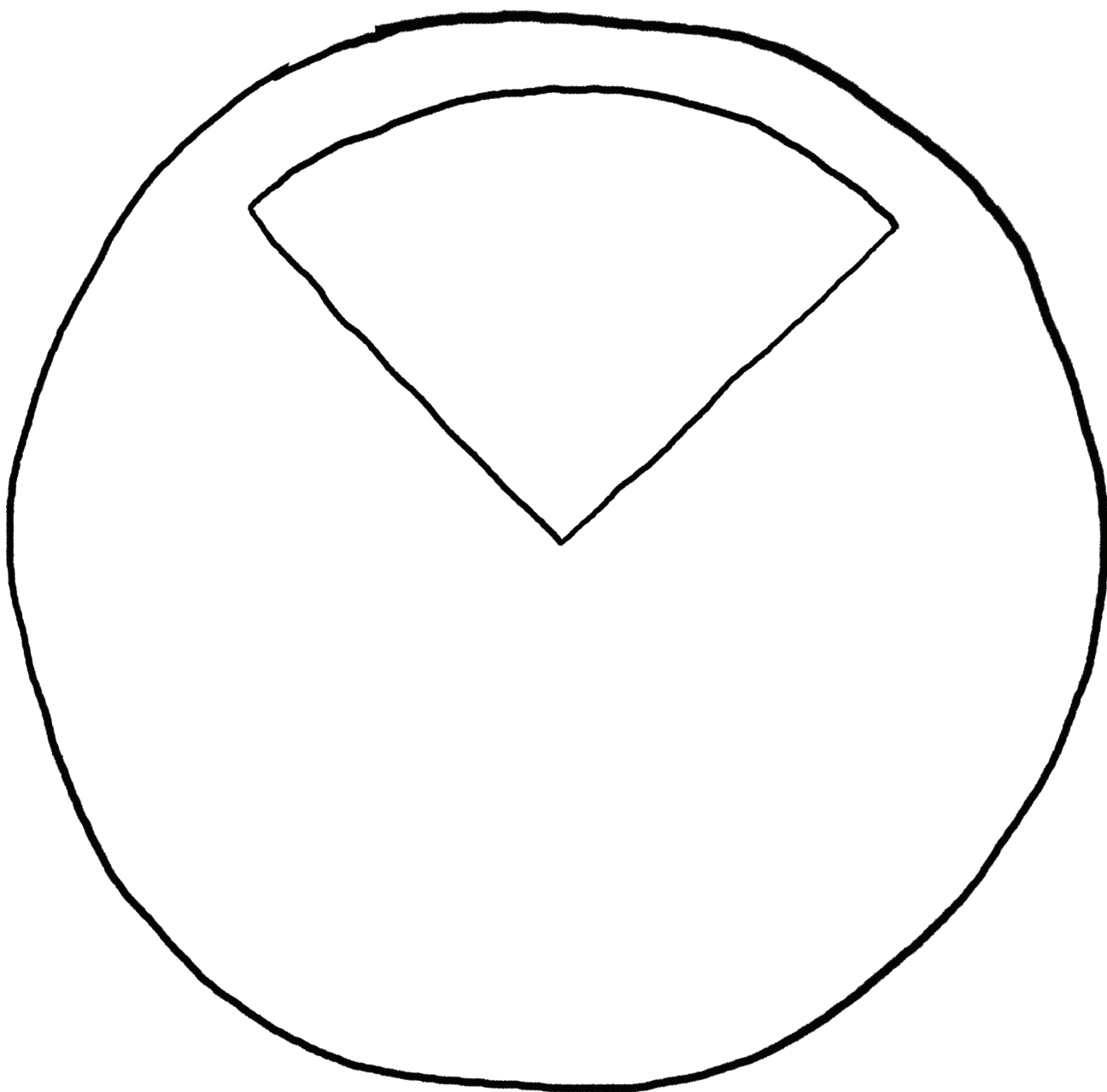
Make a copy of the *Story Wheel Patterns* for each child.

### Directions:

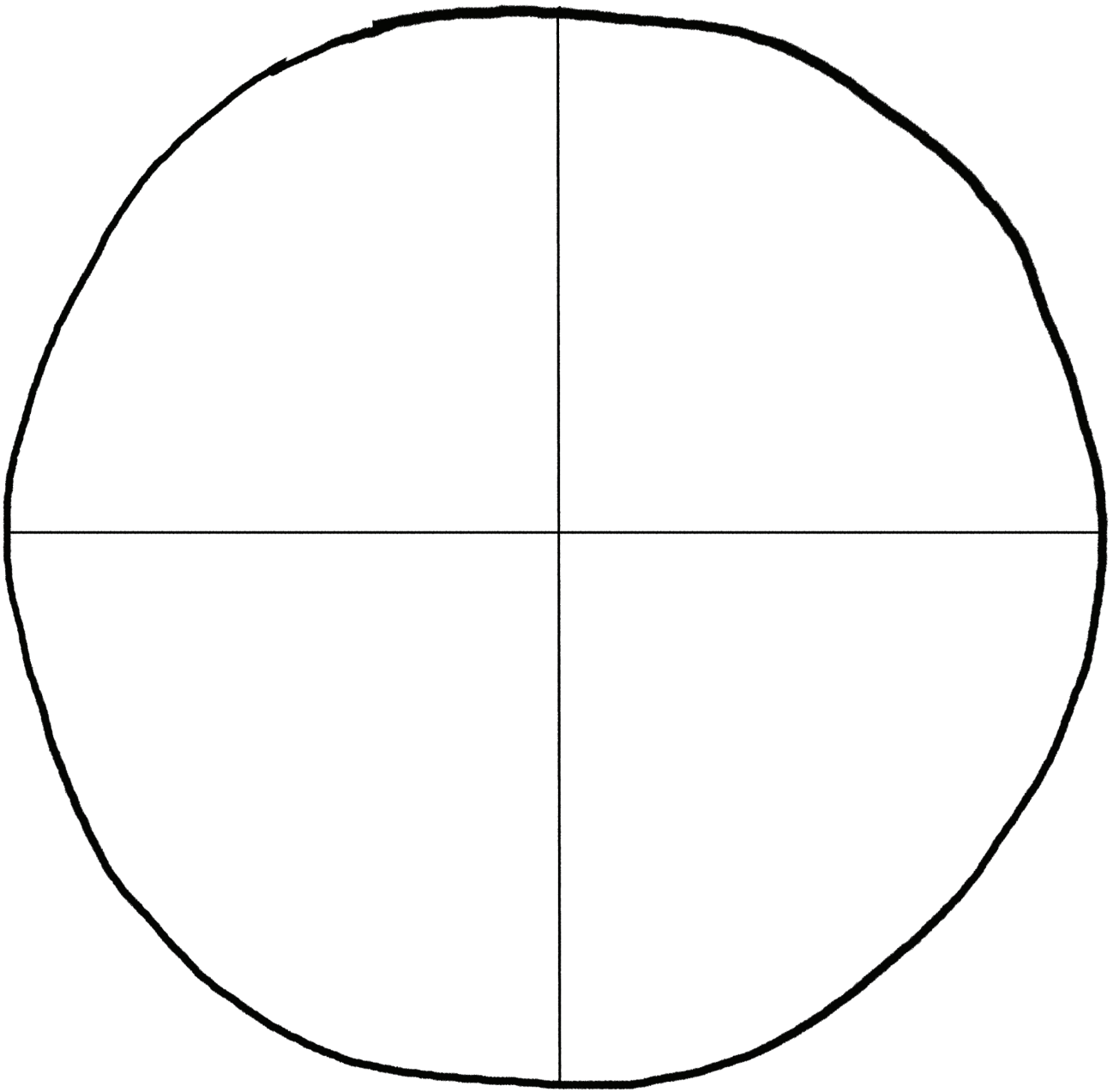
Hand out the patterns and invite each child to make a Garden of Eden story wheel. Give the children these directions:

1. Color a picture of the Garden of Eden on the circle with the triangle shape at the top. Glue this picture onto a paper plate.
2. Cut out the triangle from the upper center of the picture and plate.
3. Cut out the story wheel and dial.
4. Draw four pictures depicting the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, in chronological order. (*Encourage the children to pick scenes that are important to them from today's story. Though telling the same story, every child may pick different scenes.*)
5. Turn the wheel over and tape on the paper clip, leaving half of it extended over the side of the circle. This is the dial for turning the wheel.
6. With paper fasteners, attach the story circle to the back of the paper plate so that the pictures show through the window.

# STORY WHEEL PATTERN



# STORY WHEEL PATTERN 2





# Weaving God's Promises

## PARTY ANIMALS for Elementary, Intermediate

Adam and Eve have invited the animals to come to a party in the garden—but they don't know which animals are coming. They must guess the names of the animals when they arrive.

Children play the parts of *Adam* or *Eve* and the *animals* in this guessing game.

### Preparation:

Cut up small pieces of paper. On each piece, write down the name of an animal.

### Directions:

Invite the children to play the Party Animals game:

1. Pick one person to be *Adam* or *Eve*. The rest of the children are *animals*. Give each of them a piece of paper with the name of an animal written on it. Tell the children to keep their animal identity a secret.
2. *Adam* or *Eve* pretends to be in the garden pattering around, waiting for the invited guests to arrive. One by one, the *animals* come and act their part. They cannot make any noise, only act out their animal part. (If this is too difficult, let them make their animal noise as a hint.)
3. *Adam* or *Eve* tries to guess what animal the child is playing. *Animals* can come in one by one, or in quick sequence. When their animal name is guessed, the child sits down. Play until *Adam* or *Eve* has guessed the names of all the *animals*.



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## WHO AM I? for Primary, Elementary, Intermediate

Children guess what animals they are in this game played like 20 Questions.

### Materials:

- index cards or small pieces of paper
- pen or marker
- tape

### Preparation:

On each card or piece of paper, write the name of an animal. Children love this game, so make more than one per child so the game can be played more than once.

### Directions:

Invite the children to play the Who Am I game:

1. Tape a card onto the back of each child. Explain:
  - You are one of the new animals that God created. But who?
  - You must guess who you are by asking the other children questions about yourself. The questions can be only “yes” or “no” questions, for example: “Am I brown?” or “Do I like to play in the mud?” or “Do I have fur?”
2. When a child has guessed correctly, give him or her another card, or wait until everyone has guessed correctly.

### Option:

1. Pick one person to be *Adam* or *Eve*, who will guess the animal names.
2. Give a card with an animal name to three other children. Tell them to keep their animal names a secret.
3. *Adam* or *Eve* asks each child a question, like “Do you live in the water?” That child answers “yes” or “no.” For an easier game, *Adam* or *Eve* can ask questions like “What kinds of food do you eat?”
4. After a few questions, *Adam* or *Eve* tries to guess the animal.





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## ANIMAL PAIRS for Preschool, Primary

Children make animal sounds in search of their partners in this animal pair-up game.

### Materials:

index cards or small pieces of paper  
*optional:* bag or hat

### Preparation:

On each card or piece of paper or card, draw a picture of an animal or tape or glue a magazine picture. Make two cards of each animal. The animals should be simple to imitate and to guess by their sounds, such as a *dog, cat, cow, pig, duck* or *bird*.

### Directions:

Invite the children to play the Animal Pairs game:

1. Show each of the children a card with a picture of an animal on it or have them draw a card out of a bag or hat. Tell them to keep their animal names a secret. Explain:  
— You are a lonely animal! Find your animal partner, using only your animal sound.
2. At your signal, ask each of the children to make their animal's sound and go in search of their animal partner, the one who is making the same sound.
3. When they find each other, the animal pairs run together to a predetermined base—for example, a corner of the room, a certain chair or you.



# Weaving God's Promises

## NAME THAT ANIMAL for Elementary, Intermediate

Adam has been instructed by God to name the animals that God has made. When Adam names the animals, they turn and run home. Adam chases them, trying to catch one.

Children play *Adam* and the *animals* in this variation of tag.

### Materials:

masking tape

### Preparation:

Put a line of tape across the hallway or room, as shown in the illustration below. Behind the far side of the line is home.

### Directions:

Invite the children to play the Name that Animal game:

1. Choose one child to be *Adam*. Have *Adam* stand at one end of the room. All the other children stand together behind the masking tape line, at the other end of the room.
2. The group chooses to be an *animal* from God's creation, without *Adam* hearing. They then walk up to *Adam* and dance around him, acting like that animal and making that animal's noises and no other sounds.
3. *Adam* tries to guess the name of the *animal*. When he does, all the animals run home while *Adam* tries to catch one.
4. If an *animal* is caught by *Adam*, he or she becomes *Adam* for the next round. If no one is caught, the same person is *Adam*. Or you may select a new *Adam*, regardless of who is caught.



# Weaving God's Promises

## SNAKES OF OBEDIENCE for Preschool

Children make snakes and put them on leashes.

### Materials:

foam pads, about 1" thick and 3' long  
scissors  
markers  
wide ribbon  
paints and paintbrushes  
red felt  
stapler  
yarn  
*optional*: large googly eyes



### Preparation:

Cut the foam pad into 3" x 3' strips. Make one strip for each child. Cut felt tongues 1" x 3". Cut ribbon into 18" pieces and write Obey God on each piece.

### Directions:

Give each of the children a foam strip, a piece of felt and a piece of ribbon and invite each child to make a snake and put it on a leash.:

1. Ask each child to glue the felt tongue and two googly eyes (or draw them with markers) on one end of the foam strip. (The felt tongue may also need to be stapled.)
2. Then invite the children to decorate the bodies of their snakes as they wish, using markers or paints. You may help the children write the words *Love God, love each other* on their snakes, if you wish.
3. Tie a ribbon around each snake's neck for a collar.
4. Help the children attach yarn to their snakes' collars to make leashes.



# Weaving God's Promises

## ANIMAL HOOK-UPS for Primary, Elementary

Children create an animal zoo.

### Materials:

- pipe cleaners
- pictures of animals
- transparent tape
- scissors
- construction paper

### Preparation:

Cut pipe cleaners into lengths about 6" long.

### Directions:

Ask the children to each pick out a picture of an animal, then invite them to join their animals together to make a zoo. Give the children these directions:

1. Cut out the picture of an animal.
2. On the back of the picture—at the top and the bottom or on the two sides—place two pipe cleaners with at least half of the pipe cleaners extending past the edge of the picture. Tape the ends to the picture.
3. Glue the picture to a piece of construction paper with the pipe cleaner in between. Cut away the construction paper at the edge of the animal picture.
4. Make a hook on the ends of the pipe cleaners.
5. Link the animals together to create a zoo.





# Weaving God's Promises

## SUPER TEMPTATIONS for Intermediate

Children take a look at temptations, first in a personal inventory, then in a group discussion.

### Materials:

- paper
- pencils or pens
- Some Great Things to Have* handout (p. 31)
- Bibles

### Preparation:

Make copies of the handout, one for each child.

### Directions:

Invite children to participate in this conversation jump-start activity. Begin by saying:

- We are all tempted by things. Not all temptations are bad. Sometimes we are tempted to do or be something that is OK in itself but takes us away from God. Let's look at temptations!

Pass out the worksheet and ask the children to do the exercise.

Give the children a few minutes to write in their answers, then invite them to consider why these things might be "forbidden fruit." Discuss:

- What is the down side of getting what you want? For example, what if you did get to live forever?

Read what the Bible has to say about the things we value and why they might be "forbidden fruit." Help the children look up these passages:

- Mark 10:35-45
- John 3:16
- Luke 12:13-21
- 1 Corinthians 8:1b-2

Jump-start a conversation with these questions:

- What does the Bible say about these things we value?
- Are these things bad in themselves?
- What makes them bad? (*when they take us away from God*)



# SOME GREAT THINGS TO HAVE

What really makes you drool? Number from 1 (*No way!*) to 10 (*Wow!*) what you would be tempted to go to great lengths to get.

\_\_\_ lots of money

\_\_\_ Superhero power (*Describe it below:*)

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\_\_\_ lots of power

\_\_\_ living forever

\_\_\_ lots of friends

\_\_\_ knowing everything

\_\_\_ all A's on tests

# LESSON 1: FALL AND EXILE FROM THE GARDEN OF EDEN



## We Believe . . .

Not all Christian denominations understand creation and sin the same way.

Episcopalians believe that creation is good because God made it. And we believe that humanity is good, though we do fall into sin. God made us, blessed us and called our creation “very good.” We turned away from God, but we are not inherently evil. We do sin but we cannot blame it on the “serpent.”

Read Eucharistic Prayer C on page 370 of the *Book of Common Prayer*.

## Today's Story:



### Genesis 2-3

The Bible is like a book of chapters, with different stories about God and us. This is the beginning of *our* story. After God created the world, God created the first man, called *Adam*. Adam gives names to all the animals, and then is given a partner, a woman whom he names *Eve*. Their home is a garden called *Eden*. God tells them that they may eat any of the fruit from the garden except the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, but Adam and Eve disobey God by eating the forbidden fruit. God sends them out of the Garden of Eden.

The story about Adam and Eve is an important part of this

year's story—the story of our salvation. We can see how separation from God can happen when we put ourselves first. We can look at our own relationships now and in the past, how some of our actions might cause separation and alienation from our loved ones. The primary message of this (and all the stories in the Bible) is that *God stays with us—no matter what*.



## Words of Faith

*Obey*—Follow God's commandments to love God and one another

*Sin*—When we are separated from God

**God stays with us, no matter what.**



## Sharing

Read the story of Adam and Eve from a children's Bible, showing the pictures, or from your family Bible.

There may be many questions about what Adam and Eve did and about God's response to their wrong doing, for example:

- What did Adam and Eve do that was wrong?
- Are there any similar stories that we have experienced with our own actions?
- How do we disobey God?

Reinforce the idea that God loves us and stays with us, no matter what. God loved and stayed with Adam and Eve, even though God would not allow them to live in the Garden of Eden with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.



# Weaving God's Promises



## This Week at Home

- **Create a miniature "Garden of Eden."** In a large, rounded bowl, place dirt, moss, stones and some sticks (to look like boulders and rocks). Add a small plant or two, like an evergreen seedling or a small cactus. If you have small toy animals, add a few of those as well. Remember to keep the soil and moss moist.
- **Go around the circle and say, "I'm in the Garden of Eden, and I see a..."** The first person names something in creation that starts with the letter "A," like an "aardvark," the next person says, "I'm in the Garden of Eden, and I see an aardvark and a..." and completes the sentence with something in creation that starts with the letter "B," like a "boy." Continue like this through the alphabet. Help each other when you get stuck and either can't remember what's been said or can't think of something that begins with the next letter.
- **Together come up with a way you can help preserve God's good creation.** Can you pick up litter on your street? Help a neighbor with his garden? find a new way to recycle something you usually throw away? Come up with a plan and implement it.
- **Identify your favorite creation.** Is it an anteater? a red rose? a dinosaur? What about the weirdest creation you can think of? Or the thing you like the least, like mosquitoes or lima beans or sand when it's in your shoes? How are even these things useful in our world? What would happen if the things we liked least disappeared? Remember that bees pollinate our favorite flowers and fruits, spiders capture bugs that can damage plants.
- **Draw your favorite creation.** Take a large, blank piece of paper and some crayons. To start, draw blank, earthy ground. Then pass the paper around the group and have each person draw a picture of their single most favorite thing of creation. It might be an animal, a person, a flower, a piece of food—be creative about creation!



## Household Prayer

O God, you made us out of your love. Bless your whole human family. Forgive us when we do wrong, and help us to do what is right. In Jesus' name we pray. *Amen.*

