

LESSON ACTIVITIES

✓ **Activity Page:** The Steps into and away from Sin

The Steps into Sin: Thinking about how Satan tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden what were the steps Eve took into sin?

1. Doubt God. How did Satan get Eve to doubt God? He challenged what God said. “Did God really say?”
2. Deny the danger. How did Satan deny the danger of disobeying God? He contradicted what God said would happen. “You will not surely die.”
3. Believe lies or deception. How did Satan get Eve to disobey God? He gave her a false promise of benefit. He lied to her. “Your eyes will be open and you will be like God.”

The Steps away from Sin: What would be the opposite steps we would need to take to avoid falling into sin?

1. Trust God. What does that mean you do? Think about who God is. Pray for insight and understanding. Rely on God.
2. Recognize the danger. What does that mean you do? Think about the consequences of your actions. If you do something what will be the likely result. Is that what you want to happen in your life?
3. Know and believe the truth. What does that mean you do? You have to know what the word of God says and act on it. That means you study the Bible so you can recognize ideas that contradict it and things that people say that aren’t true or want you to do that will hurt you or others.

✓ **Further Understanding:** Investigation/Reasoning Skills

The Equation of Sin

Develop understanding of the memory verse and the equation of sin.

James 1:14-15 - Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

- What two things come together to cause sin? Temptation and evil desires. The equation of sin becomes “temptation + evil desires = sin that destroys.”
- What is temptation? Temptations are things put before us that we want even if they are not good for us. They are things that take us off God’s path and appeal to our natural desires.
- In what area does temptation work? Temptation works best in an area where we have evil or wrong desires. If you don’t have a desire for something it can’t tempt you.
- What are evil desires? Evil desires are ones that are not of God and lead us into sin. They are contrary to God and his truth and character. They are desires that if we give into them will hurt us and others.

Beginning 24 – Activities

- How can the equation of sin be broken? To break an equation one of the elements of it has to be removed. In terms of breaking the equation of sin that means you either have to remove the temptation or the evil desires.
- What is the most reasonable option for breaking the equation of sin and why? The most reasonable option is to change your desires so that you want what God wants. It is the only reasonable option because you will never be able to get rid of all temptations.
- How do we usually think of breaking the equation of sin? Usually we think that if we got rid of the temptation we wouldn't sin.
- Why doesn't that work? You still have the desire for something wrong so as soon as the opportunity presents itself you will sin.

Illustration: If you are in a boat in the middle of the ocean that is sinking because it has a leak, you can think that if you got rid of all the water in the ocean the boat would stop sinking. That would be true but a better solution is to patch the leak in the boat. It is true that if we got rid of all temptation we wouldn't sin, but since that is an impossibility we need to deal with our own evil desires that cause us to sin.

What makes something evil? Evil is anything that is not functioning according to God's design. It is a corruption of what is good. It is anything that is harmful to God's creation. For evil to exist, something good had to exist in the first place. To overcome evil and return to the good state in which we were designed to function we have to deal with the causes of corruption in our selves.

How did Satan get Eve to sin? In the garden Satan, the tempter, clothed as a serpent caused Eve to doubt God's word. She believed the lies of the devil and then followed her desires into sin. Whoever or whatever we believe is who we will follow. If our faith (trust) is in God and his truth then we won't follow temptation into sin.

How did Jesus resist Satan's temptation in the desert? When Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, Jesus countered every temptation with the word of God saying, "It is written..." We have to recognize Satan's craftiness and his purpose, turn from the temptation and put our faith in the promises of God. The choice is to believe Satan's deceptions and follow a path that leads to death and destruction or to believe the truth of Christ and follow a path that leads to abundant and eternal life.

Discussion: Why do we believe Satan's lies and deceptions? Why do we want what will hurt us? Do we more easily believe the lies of Satan or the truth of God? Why?

✓ **Craft:** Make a snake

As a reminder that Satan took on the form of a serpent in the Garden of Eden when he tempted Eve, make a snake.

Materials: Cover stock paper, crayons, markers or color pencils, scissors

Preparation: Run off craft on cover stock paper.

Instructions: According to a pattern, color the snake and then cut along the lines of the spiral to make a coiled snake.

Beginning 24 – Activities

- ✓ **Game:** Make the longest snake

As a reminder that Satan took on the form of a serpent in the Garden of Eden when he tempted Eve, make a snake.

Instructions: See who can make the longest snake by tearing a piece of paper like a coil. If the coil breaks that is the length of the snake. Dangle the coils to measure the longest one.

- ✓ **Activity:** Memorize the rhyme:

Thinking something's good for you, doesn't make it right to do.

- ✓ **Discovery Activity:** Choosing what's good

Instructions: Put out a healthy snack and some candy. Ask the children which snack they would most want to eat and why. Explain to them which snack is best for their body and why. Explain that candy tastes good but that it isn't good for them and how eating too much candy hurts the body. Make the connection between the candy and sin. At first sin seems good when we do it but in the end, it ends up hurting us. Satan wants us to do things that will end up hurting us. He makes them seem good for us but they really aren't.

Questions: What makes something good for food? What makes something pleasing to the eye? Where do we get wisdom?

Beginning 24 – Activities

