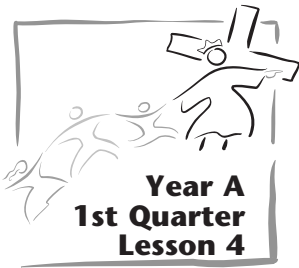


LESSON



Hiding From God

GRACE

Grace is God's love for us.

References

Genesis 3:1-21; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 52-62.

Memory Verse

"The Lord is good and his love endures forever" (Psalm 100:5, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know God loves them even when they do wrong.

Feel glad that God loves them all the time.

Respond by celebrating their love for God.

The Message



God loves us all the time, even when we do wrong.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Adam and Eve disobey God by eating fruit from the forbidden tree. When God calls them, they try to hide from Him. God loves them so much that He looks for them until He finds them. They confess and are sent from the garden. God still loves them, and He takes care of their needs.

This is a story about grace.

God's acceptance of us is not deter-

mined by our behavior. He loves all of us unconditionally—even when we sin. He is always available to us and is always ready to forgive us when we do something wrong. His love never dies.

Teacher Enrichment

"To Adam, the offering of the first sacrifice was a most painful ceremony. His hand must be raised to take life, which only God could give. It was the

FOUR

Program Outline			
LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Fig-Leaf Coat</i> B. <i>Hide-and-Seek</i> C. <i>Choices</i>	pattern on p. 141, large paper grocery sacks or butcher paper; leaves or green paper; scissors; glue blankets (optional) small wrapped gifts, such as stickers or pencils
* Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	See page 46. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story	
		Bible Study	Bible
		Memory Verse	Bible
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15		paper, crayons or markers, wastebasket
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15		fig-leaf illustration (see p. 141); finger paint or stamp pad; scissors; optional magnetic tape; baby wipes or water and paper towels

first time he had ever witnessed death, and he knew that had he been obedient to God, there would have been no death of man or beast. As he slew the innocent victim, he trembled at the thought that his sin must shed the blood of the spotless Lamb of God. This scene gave him a deeper and more vivid sense of the greatness of his transgression, which nothing but the death of

God's dear Son could expiate. And he marveled at the infinite goodness that would give such a ransom to save the guilty. A star of hope illumined the dark and terrible future and relieved it of its utter desolation" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 68).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 1.

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome children at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they're pleased/troubled about. Have a special welcome "badge" for the visitors. Encourage the children again to invite a friend if they weren't successful this week. Have them begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A. Fig-Leaf Coat

You Need:

- pattern on p. 141
- large paper grocery bags or butcher paper
- scissors
- leaves or green construction paper
- glue

Cut a paper sack according to the diagram on page 141 or trace an outline of a coat on butcher paper. Provide either leaves or green construction paper that the children can tear into pieces to resemble leaves. Allow the children to glue the "leaves" onto the paper to make a fig-leaf coat.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Would you like to have a coat like this? Do you think that it would be very warm? Would people be able to see what you were wearing underneath? In our story today we will learn about two people who did something wrong. They tried to hide by making a fig-leaf coat. Do you think a fig-leaf coat would hide them very well? Remember:**



God loves us all the time, even when we do wrong.

Say that with me.

B. Hide-and-Seek

You Need:

- blankets (optional)

Ask the children to hide in the room and then look for them. If your room is not suitable for hiding, consider providing blankets for the children to hide under or hiding something for the children to find. If appropriate, you may want to consider hiding outside.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Who had the best hiding place? Was it easy to find the others? When we do things that are not nice, sometimes we feel like hiding. Can you think of a time when you wanted to hide? The people in our story today did something they knew was wrong, and then they tried to hide from God. God knew what they had done. He was sad when they tried to hide, but He still loved them. Remember this:**



God loves us all the time, even when we do wrong.

Say it with me.

C. Choices

Prepare the gifts in two ways so they appear noticeably different. For half the gifts, wrap just one item, but pad it with newspaper or tissue paper so it appears to be significantly larger than it really is. For the other half, wrap two of the items together, but wrap them so they appear to be significantly smaller than the single items. Save some unwrapped items for use later in the activity.

Say: **I have a present for each of you. You may choose whichever one you want.**

Allow the children to choose and unwrap their items, then discuss the differences between how the package looked and what was really inside.

Debriefing

Are you happy with your choice? Do you wish you had made a different choice? Sometimes we make bad choices, but no matter what choices we make,



God loves us all the time, even when we do wrong.

Say that with me.

Distribute an additional item to each of the children who chose a package with only one.

You Need:

- small wrapped gifts, such as stickers or pencils



NOTE: Prayer and Praise appears on page 46.

2

Bible Lesson**Experiencing the Story**

As you tell the story, make the motions and sounds indicated in italics and invite the children to imitate you.

Adam and Eve loved their beautiful garden. God Himself showed them around their new home and pointed out all the special things He had made for them. Then God pointed to one tree in the middle of the garden.

"You may eat from any tree in the garden except that one," God said. *(Pretend to point to an imaginary tree.)* "If you eat from that tree, you will die." Then God told Adam and Eve to stay close together.

Things went well for a while, but one day Eve went for a walk. Soon she found herself standing by the tree from which God had told them not to eat.

Suddenly she heard a voice: "Did God really say you can't eat from this tree?"

Who was that? Eve looked around. *(Look around, as though for an unseen speaker.)* She and Adam were the only ones who lived in the garden. Who was speaking to her?

Then she saw it, up in the tree. The voice was coming from a beautiful serpent! Eve was fascinated. She took a step closer. "We can eat the fruit of all the trees in the garden except this one," she answered. "God said we mustn't even touch it or we will die."

"You won't die," said the serpent. *(Hiss like a snake.)* "God is just trying to keep something very special from you. Go ahead. It really is very good."

Eve looked at the beautiful fruit. The serpent was eating the fruit and he seemed perfectly healthy. She decided to believe the serpent.

Eve took the fruit the serpent handed to her. *(Pretend to take a fruit and look at*

it closely.) She was touching it, and she hadn't died. She took a bite. *(Pretend to take a bite.)* She was still alive! She gathered some fruit and gave it to Adam. *(Pretend to talk to someone.)*

Adam listened to Eve's story, and he too decided to disobey God. *(Pretend to take a fruit and take a bite.)*

After Adam and Eve ate the fruit, they felt terrible. For the first time they knew what it felt like to sin. *(Hang your head in shame.)* They were so ashamed that they wanted to cover up and hide. So they decided to sew some fig leaves together and put them on.

That evening God came to walk in the garden with Adam and Eve. But when they heard God calling them, they hid from Him.

"Adam," called God. *(Put your hands up to your mouth, as if calling.)* "Where are you? Eve! Adam! Where are you?" *(Put hands up over eyes, as if looking. Invite the children to call for Adam and Eve with you.)*

Finally Adam answered. "I heard you calling, and I was afraid, so I hid."

Then God was sad. He knew what had happened. "Did you eat fruit from the tree I told you not to eat from?" He asked.

It was so hard to admit to God that they had done what He had told them not to do. First Adam blamed Eve, then Eve blamed the serpent. *(Point to first one child and then another.)* But blaming someone else didn't change the fact that they had chosen to disobey.

God was very sad. *(Pretend to wipe away a tear.)* He told Adam and Eve they would have to leave their beautiful garden home. But God wanted them to know He still loved them very much.

God took two of their animal friends and killed them to make coats for Adam and Eve to wear. It was the first time

Adam and Eve had seen anything die, and they cried and cried. (*Pretend to sob and cry.*) Then God told them that He still loved them, and that someday His Son would die to rescue them from the wrong they had done. Adam and Eve were relieved to know that God still loved them even though they had disobeyed Him. And God still loves you when you do something wrong. He is always ready to forgive you. Just ask Him.

Debriefing

Explain that the serpent was something like the snakes we have today, but was more beautiful and did not crawl on the ground. Allow response time as you ask: **What would you think if a serpent talked to you? What do you think Eve should have done when the serpent spoke to her? How do you think Adam felt when Eve told him what she had done? What would you have done if you were Adam and Eve and you heard God calling? How do you think Adam and Eve felt when God killed two of their animal friends? How did God feel about Adam and Eve when they disobeyed Him?*** **Remember:**



God loves us all the time, even when we do wrong.

Say it with me.

Bible Study

Open your Bible to Genesis 3. Point to verses 1-21 and say: **Today's story is found here in God's Word, the Bible.** Read selected verses, paraphrasing as necessary. Ask: **Who did something wrong? Did God still love them? When does God love you?** (all the time)*

You Need:

Bible

Memory Verse

Open your Bible to Psalm 100:5. Point to the verse and say: **This is where our memory verse is found in God's Word, the Bible.** Point to each word as you read the verse aloud. Then divide the class into two groups and proceed as follows:

You Need:

Bible

Teach the first group to say and do:

The Lord is good Wave hands above their heads.

Second group responds:

And his love endures forever. Wrap arms around their body as if hugging themselves.

Both groups clap while they say together, Psalm 100:5.

Repeat several times. Have the groups switch roles and repeat again.

*You may wish to have the children sing the following words to the tune "Jesus Loves Me" at this point:

Jesus loves me when I'm good,
When I do the things I should.
Jesus loves me when I'm bad,
Even though it makes Him sad.

Chorus:

Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me,
The Bible tells me so.

PRAYER AND PRAISE



Fellowship

Report the children's joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Give a special warm greeting to visitors and introduce each by name. Acknowledge birthdays or special events.

Suggested Songs

"And God Said" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 66)

"God Made Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 164)

"Creation" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 68)

"God Made Our World" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 71)

"God Made the Sun and Moon and Stars" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 165)

Mission

Say: **There are many people who don't know that God loves them even when they do things that are wrong. Here is a story about someone who knew** (or found out, etc., as appropriate to the story) **that God loves us all the time.** Use the story from *Children's Mission*.

Offering

Use the same offering container you used last week. Say: **When we give our offering, it helps to teach people that no matter what they may have done, Jesus loves them.**

Prayer

Ask: **Have you ever done anything that you were sorry for afterward?** Allow time for the children to respond, but prompt them if necessary. Perhaps they were mean to a sibling, or disobeyed a parent. If you don't think you will be able to remember all the things they said, write them down as the children mention them.

Say: **Let's ask God to forgive us for all these things and thank Him for loving us all the time, even when we do wrong.** When you pray, thank God specifically for loving the children even when they (name the things they mentioned). After prayer, say: **Remember:**



God loves us all the time, even when we do wrong.

Say that with me.

* Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

3

Applying the Lesson**You Need:**

- paper
- crayons or markers
- wastebasket

Distribute paper and art supplies and ask the children to draw a picture of something they know that it is wrong to do. You may need to

prompt them by mentioning some of the things they named at prayer time.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

When you do things like this, how do you feel inside? How do you think God feels when you do

things like this? Let's take all these nasty things and throw them away. (Get each child to crumple up their paper and throw it in a wastebasket.) **That is just what God does. Does God stop loving you when you do something wrong? Remember:**



God loves us all the time, even when we do wrong.

Say it with me.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Provide a photocopied or traced illustration of the fig leaf for each child. (See page 141 for pattern.) Provide scissors so they can cut it out. Allow the children to dip their finger into finger paint or onto the stamp pad and then use their fingerprint to "color" in the fig leaf. If desired, attach a piece of magnetic strip to the back. Clean up with baby wipes or water and paper towels.

Debriefing

Who used fig leaves in our story today? (Adam and Eve) Why? (to try to hide from God) Did God love them any less after they disobeyed Him?

(no) **When does God love us? Allow response time. God loves us all the time, even when we do wrong. Whom would you like to tell that God loves them?**

You may need to prompt the children. Encourage them to give the fig leaf to someone else this week and tell that person



God loves us all the time, even when we do wrong.

Say that with me one more time.

You Need:

- copies of fig-leaf illustration (see p. 141)
- green finger paint or stamp pad
- scissors
- optional: stick-on magnets
- baby wipes or water and paper towels

Closing

Close with a prayer thanking God for loving us all the time, even when we disobey. Pray that the children will tell someone that God loves them all the time and that they will share that message in the coming week.

STUDENT LESSON

Hiding From God

References

Genesis 3:1-21;
Patriarchs and
Prophets,
pp. 52-62.

Memory Verse

"The Lord is good
and his love en-
dures forever"
(Psalm 100:5,
NIV).

The Message

God loves us
all the time,
even when we
do wrong.

Have you ever done something so naughty that you were ashamed? A long time ago Adam and Eve did just that.

Adam and Eve really liked the Garden of Eden home God had made for them. Every day they learned something new.

One day Eve found herself in the middle of the garden beside a beautiful tree. She knew that was the only tree in the garden whose fruit God said they were not to eat.

Suddenly she heard a voice. "Did God really say you cannot eat from this tree?"

Who was that? Eve looked up. There in the tree branches she saw a beautiful serpent, and it was talking to her! "We can eat the fruit of the trees in the garden," Eve answered. "But not the fruit of this tree, or we will die," she added.

"You will not die," said the serpent, who was really Satan. "God is just trying to keep something special away from you. Go ahead. Try it. It really is very good."

Eve looked at the fruit. It did look good. So she decided to believe the serpent. She knew better, but she took some fruit and ate it. Then she picked more and gave it to Adam.

Adam listened as Eve told him about the serpent. He too decided to disobey God. He quickly took the fruit and ate it. Suddenly they were so ashamed that

they wanted to cover themselves and hide. When they disobeyed God, they lost their robes of light. So they sewed some fig leaves together and covered themselves. Later that day God came to walk with them. But when they heard God calling, they hid from Him.



"Adam," called

God. "Where are you? Eve! Adam! Where are you?"

Finally Adam answered. "I heard you calling, and I was afraid, so I hid."

God knew what had happened. "Did you eat fruit from the tree I told you not to eat from?" He asked.

It was hard to admit to God that they had disobeyed Him. First Adam blamed Eve;

then Eve blamed the serpent.

God was very sad. He told Adam and Eve they would have to leave their beautiful garden home because they had disobeyed. But God still loved them. He used animal skins to make clothes for them. And He promised them that someday His own Son would die to rescue them from their sins.

God truly loved Adam and Eve. And He loves you and me, too. Even when we do something wrong, He still loves us. He is always ready to forgive us.

Do and Say

Sabbath

Visit a park or garden and review the lesson story together. Help your child give the fig leaf made in Sabbath School to someone and tell that person about Adam and Eve's sin. Reinforce the idea that God still loved Adam and Eve, even after they had done wrong. Sing "Jesus Loves Me" together.

Sunday

Review the story together. Ask: How do you think Adam felt when Eve came with the fruit?* How did God feel when Adam and Eve hid from Him?†

Sing "Jesus Loves Me" together (see page 63 in the Study Guide) and thank God for loving us, even when we do wrong.

Monday

Show your child where the lesson is found in Genesis 3. Read together verses 1-13, 21-24.

See page 61 in the Bible Study Guide to review or teach the memory verse during worship.

Tuesday

Play hide-and-seek together. Have your child hide and pretend to be Adam or Eve while you are God looking for him or her. "Find" your child and take him



or her in your arms. Reinforce the idea that God loves us even when we do wrong.

Wednesday

Move the hands on a clock to different times. Ask What do we do early in the morning, at lunchtime, etc. At each time ask, "When does God love you?" Emphasize that God loves us all the time.

Sing "Jesus Loves Me," then thank Him for His love.



Thursday

Help your child draw a picture of Eve eating the fruit. Explain that when we are disobedient, God is sad. Then help your child draw a heart around the picture. Emphasize that when we do wrong, God still loves us. Thank Him for His love that never ends.

Friday

Read Genesis 3 to review the Bible story. Help your family act out the story. Emphasize that God loves us all the time, good or bad, every day.

Sing "Jesus Loves Me." Thank God for His love.

*See *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 56.

† You might enjoy reading chapters three and four of *Patriarchs and Prophets*.