

MAN'S CHOICE, GOD'S MERCY

CONCEPT

In His mercy, God offers reconciliation to sinful man.

GOAL

Christian students will learn that before Adam and Eve disobeyed God He had a plan to offer reconciliation through Christ.

Non-Christian students will learn that God values free will so much that He lets us choose whether we want a relationship with Him.

PASSAGE: GENESIS 3:1-23

Key Verse: "One man disobeyed God, and many became sinners. In the same way, one man obeyed God, and many will be made right." Romans 5:19 (NCV)

PLANNING AHEAD*

Lesson Supplies

Learning Activity #1:

- Shadow puppets – lamb, tree, 2 bushes, snake, Adam & Eve
- Strong flashlight, 1/class

Lesson:

- *Grandpa's Box*, Starr Meade
- 4 laminated pictures w/magnets on back – Garden w/GOD, river, cross, Adam & Eve after the Fall
- *The Mighty Acts of God*, Starr Meade

Craft Supplies

Activity Stations:

- 9 "Choices" cards
- OT/NT cards, 2 sets/room

* **Teachers please note:** For clarity, the shaded areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag. **Items followed by an asterisk* are to be supplied by the teaching team.**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION / TEACHER HELPS

"Two Significant Trees. In the middle of God's Kingdom (the Garden of Eden), two significant trees were placed. There was the 'tree of the knowledge of good and evil' (Genesis 2:17). God told Adam that the day he ate of it, he would die. The other significant tree was the Tree of Life. It depicted Eternal Life and Jesus Christ is spiritually the eternal Tree of Life (see Revelation 22:2).

"Adam had the choice of whether or not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Because he chose to disobey God, he made it impossible to eat of the Tree of Life. Had he eaten of the Tree of Life, he would have contained the highest life, divine Eternal Life, which is the Life of Christ.

"God's Kingdom Invaded. Satan, the enemy of God, is described in the Bible as 'roaming to and fro on earth' (see Job 1:7). He is pictured as shrewd and as one who prowls around like a lion seeking someone to devour (see 1 Peter 5:8). His basic strategy is revealed as accusing God to man (see Job 1:11 and Genesis 3:5) and accusing man to God (see Revelation 12:10). He is determined to thwart God's plan and by causing additional rebellion against God, to build up his own kingdom.

"In the Garden of Eden, Satan's attack against God was to cast doubt on His Word and the goodness of God and to convince Eve that by challenging Him, she would be like God (see Genesis 3:5). Satan's plan was to convince Eve that God was trying to suppress her, keeping her from being fulfilled and knowing as much as God. Satan made his temptation of Eve a moral issue; it resulted in belittling God and deifying man. In believing the lie, Adam and Eve chose death, and lost the opportunity to eat of the Tree of Eternal Life.

"There is a tendency to think the choice was between good and evil. It was not. The choice was Eternal Life or eternal death. The forbidden tree was the knowledge of *good* as well as evil. Eating it resulted in death whether Adam and Eve did good things or evil things. Choosing this tree represents human life without the Life of God and that may be very good or very evil but it always ends in eternal death.

"Man died, back there in the Garden of Eden, just as God had said: 'The day that you eat of it you will die.' Man's spirit, the part of him which was to contain God's Eternal Life, died that day. That is, man's spirit became atrophied or dead since it was no longer capable of understanding and experiencing things of the spirit (see I Corinthians 2:14). As a consequence, the soul became the controlling part of man separated from God. Furthermore, the body of man became 'perishable' (I Corinthians 15:53), meaning that man would experience physical death. This very real event in history was the Fall of Man from personal fellowship with his Creator."¹

All humanity is born sinful as a result of the Fall. Even as Christians, we continue to struggle with our flesh, the world and Satan. Satan continues to tempt us and is committed to thwart God's kingdom. But we can choose to be victorious by the power of the Spirit of God who indwells us! As you prepare to present this lesson, spend some time reflecting on God's Incredible Plan and His amazing grace. From the beginning and forever, He is in control. Nothing is impossible with God!

¹ Martha McCallum, Jane Hamblin, *God's Incredible Plan*, Media concepts, Xenos Christian Fellowship, pp. 25-26.

LESSON PLAN

SET UP	Instructions: Draw the visual on the white board for the Lesson.
INCORPORATION 15-20 MIN	Activity Stations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Game – Choices Instructions: Have a student pick a card, discuss the situation, consider a biblical principle or verse that might apply and talk about the choice they would make in each circumstance. The idea is not to come up with “the right answer” but to talk about the situation, what might be going on with all parties and how God’s word can positively influence our choices. • Where does it go? Instructions: Deal the 66 cards to the players. Using the table of contents in a bible, have the students work together to put the cards in order. • Missions Prayer Instructions: Talk about and pray for Oasis Giving campaign and adopted missionary child.
INTRODUCTION/ INSTRUCTION -- LG GROUP 5 MIN	<p>Have you ever thought about the fact that God knows Satan tells lies about Him and does all he can to keep us from believing God? But in His love, God still gives us free will to choose the truth or the lies. Listen while I tell you about two situations.</p> <p>2 Scenarios</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A child is discovered as a great ice skater and taken away from his family at the age of nine. He is required to train 8 hours each day, go to bed at 9:00 each night, get up at 5:00 a.m. each day. He is only allowed to eat fruits, meats and vegetables. They give him only one week of vacation each year. 2) A child is a great ice skater. He decides to live away from his family at an ice skating training facility so he can practice 8 hours each day. He falls in bed at 9:00 each night so he can get up by 5:00 each morning to get back to his practice. He eats only a very healthy diet of fruits and vegetables because he hates meat. He wouldn't think of poisoning his body with candy or desserts. He goes home at Christmas so he can spend the holidays with his family, but returns to his training on December 27th. <p>What is the difference between these two situations? (The first child was told what to do and had no choice. The second child chose this life.) Who can tell me what free will is? (It is the freedom to choose what you want.) In these two situations, even though they both do the same thing, the first child is not allowed to use his free will, but the second child is.</p> <p>God values free will so much that He gave us the option to choose to walk with Him or without Him, to obey or disobey. With the freedom to choose comes the opportunity to make good choices or choices that result in disastrous consequences. Unfortunately the first man and woman chose to go their own way rather than God's way. Now all people and all of creation suffer the consequences of that choice.</p>
TRANSITION – 2 MIN	The Puppet Team is here to tell us about that very important choice.
LEARNING ACTIVITY #1 – LG GROUP 10 MIN	DRAMA -- SHADOW PLAY PRESENTED BY THE PUPPET TEAM
TRANSITION – 2 MIN	Let's go back to our classrooms and learn about the consequences of Adam and Eve's choice.
LESSON -- LG GROUP 10 MIN	<p>Two weeks ago we read about the rebellion of angels in this book. We're going to finish the chapter to see what the rebellion of the angels has to do with Adam and Eve.</p> <p>Instructions: Read page 17 starting with “Then, of course...” – bottom of page 19, <i>Grandpa's Box</i>.</p>

	<p>Divide the white board in half with an imaginary line. Title one half "Before the Fall" and the other half "After the Fall." On the white board put the laminated pictures described as the lesson progresses. When completed, the pictures should look like the attached picture "God's Plan." Begin by putting up the picture of the garden and the word "God" on the "Before the Fall" side.</p> <p>This is the Garden of Eden. It was very, very beautiful. Adam and Eve were happy working and serving God here in the garden. They were never sick, never hungry. And they were never alone because God was always there with them.</p> <p>"After the Fall" side, put the river to the right of the Garden and the picture of Adam and Eve to the right of the river.</p> <p>Read "God Promises a Savior," pp. 23-25, <i>The Mighty Acts of God</i>.</p> <p>But after Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, God sent them out of the perfect Garden to a land with weeds and dry ground. So they had to work very hard for their food. At once, they knew that they were different. This made them embarrassed and ashamed. So they had to make and wear clothes. But worst of all, Adam and Eve were lonely because they were not with God. And God told Adam and Eve that all of their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, EVERYONE after them would be born separated from Him. This happened because Adam and Eve used their free will to choose to disobey God.</p> <p>This is a very sad story and I am sure that Adam and Eve were very, very sorry that they made that terrible choice. When God gave them their consequences I bet they wished they could try again and not make that choice! But, you know what? God knew way before He created Adam and Eve that they would make that choice. He knew they would disobey Him and He had a plan to forgive them and be their friend. Our key verse today is, "One man disobeyed God, and many became sinners. In the same way, one man obeyed God, and many will be made right" (Romans 5:19). This verse tells us God's Great Plan. When Adam and Eve chose against Him, they had to leave God's presence. God had to make them leave the Garden of Eden and be separated from Him. But our key verse tells us that God had a plan for man to come back to Him.</p> <p>Put up large cross in the river showing the crossbar bridging the gap from the hill to God.</p> <p>When we ask Jesus to forgive our wrong choices and disobedience, He forgives us and makes us acceptable to God. We can then be friends with God and be in heaven with Him forever.</p>
<p>TRANSITION – 2 MIN</p>	<p>Let's get into small groups and consider what really happened. Bring your Bibles.</p>
<p>LEARNING ACTIVITY #2 - SM GROUP 10 MIN Rationale: to apply scripture to real life.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So did Adam and Eve really have a choice? (Yes—to obey or disobey God.) • Do you notice any difference between what God told Eve and what the serpent quoted God as saying? (Serpent said God told them not to touch the tree. God told them not to eat its fruit.) • What did the serpent get them to believe about God? (God lied to them and is holding out on them – preventing them from becoming all they can be.) • Now after they ate from the tree and God called them, do you think God didn't know where they were? (God is all knowing – He would have known where they were and what they had done.) • Why do you think God called out "Where are you?" (God may have been giving them the opportunity to confess their disobedience.) • When God asked Adam if he had eaten from the tree his immediate response was to blame Eve. Who did Eve blame? (She blamed the serpent.) We have the first incident of sin and the immediate response to blame someone else rather than to take responsibility for their own

choice.

Open you Bible to **Genesis 3:14-15** to see the consequences of that first sin. What did God say to the serpent? (He was cursed.) What promise or prophecy did God make in verse 15 about Satan and a descendent of Eve? (Satan would wound the seed of Eve—Christ, and this seed, Christ, would destroy Satan.) God knew Satan would tempt Adam and Eve and that they would fall for his lies. But He had a plan ready well before this time in history. He would send His Son to earth and Satan would wound Him by having Him crucified. But Christ's death would bring victory for mankind and at the end of time Satan will be crushed, destroyed, wiped out and thrown into a lake of fire to be tormented day and night forever and ever.

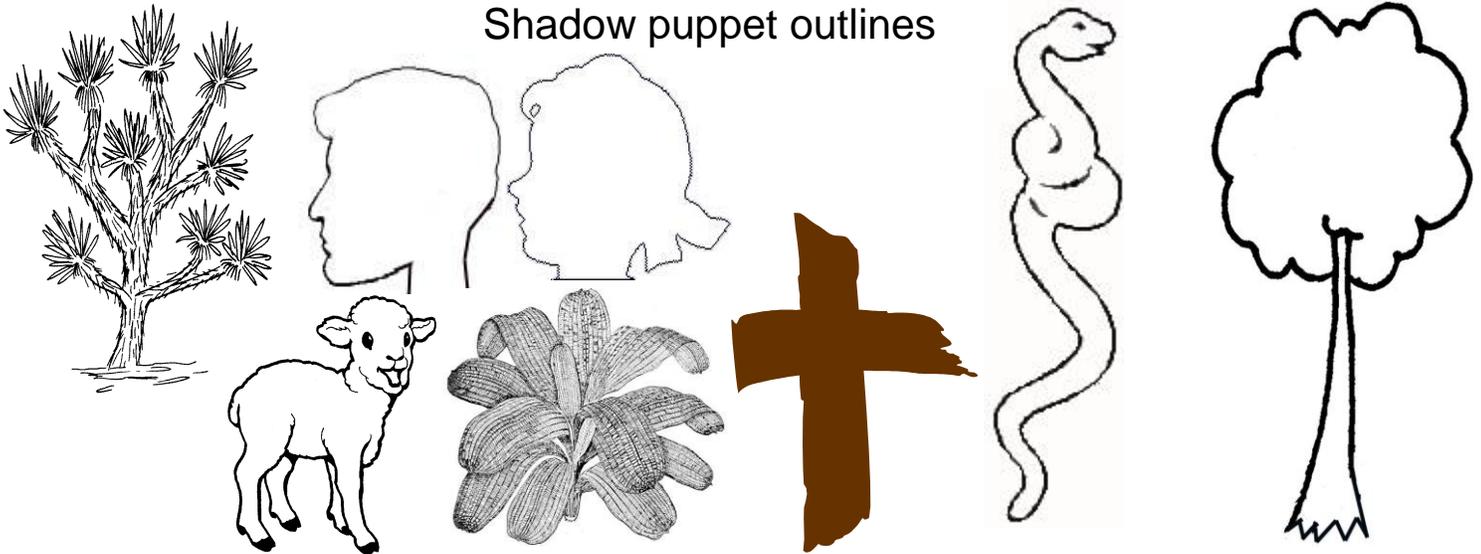
Let's **pray** together to thank God that He had a plan to bring mankind back into relationship with Him. Even though Satan is committed to stopping that plan, God will accomplish it. **"Adam caused many to be sinners because he disobeyed God, and Christ caused many to be made acceptable to God because he obeyed"** (Romans 5:19). If you don't have a relationship with Christ, you can ask Him to forgive you at any time. And if you would like, you can pray for someone who doesn't know God.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

GAME – FRUIT BASKET UPSET

Instructions: Arrange chairs in a circle for all but 1 player. Consider the variety of fruit that was available to Adam and Eve in the garden. Select several fruits, one for every three to four players, and each player is assigned a fruit. Have each player sit in a chair with one player in the center. The player in the middle will call out the name of a fruit – say apple – then all the "apples" must get up and move to a different chair while the player in the center also tries to find a chair. The one left standing at the end of the shuffle calls the next fruit. The center player can also call "Fruit Basket." Then all the players must get up and move to a different chair. See who can stay out of the middle the longest.

Shadow puppet outlines



THE FALL Puppet Skit

PROPS:

- **Puppet Stage**
- **Strong flashlight**
- **Shadow puppets (Trees/Plants, Adam & Eve, Serpent, Tree, Lamb, Cross)**

Puppeteers will sit on the floor behind the puppet stage and hold up the shadow figures. The flashlight will shine on their puppets from behind.

NARRATOR:

God created the man and woman, Adam and Eve. He placed them in the Garden of Eden to cultivate and keep it.

(Hold up trees, plants, and Adam and Eve.)

Adam and Eve were both naked and they were not ashamed. God said to Adam, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely, but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you should not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die."

(Hold up tree of knowledge of good and evil.)

Now the serpent was craftier than any beast of the field.

(Show snake.)

And he said to Eve, "Did God really say you weren't supposed to eat from any tree in the garden?" Eve replied, "We can eat from any tree in the garden except from the tree in the middle of the garden. God has said you shall not eat from it or touch it lest you die." And the serpent said to the woman, "You shall surely not die! He knows that when you eat this fruit you will gain greater understanding and that you will become like God, knowing good and evil." When Eve saw that the tree was good for food, was a delight to the eyes, and that it could make you wise, she took the fruit, ate it, and then offered some to Adam and he ate it too. Then both of them knew they were naked so they sewed some fig leaves together to make clothes.

(Remove serpent.)

When Adam and Eve heard the sound of the Lord God in the garden, they hid themselves.

(Adam and Eve hide behind trees.)

God called out to the man, "Where are you?" Adam replied, "I heard you coming and was afraid because I was naked, so I hid myself." "Who told you that you were naked?" asked God, "Did you eat from the tree which I told you not to eat from?" Adam replied, "The woman that you gave to be with me offered it to me and I ate." And the Lord said to the woman, "What did you do?" And Eve said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."

(Bring the serpent back into the picture.)

Then God told Adam, Eve, and the serpent what the consequences of their choice would be. Then God sacrificed an innocent animal and made clothes out of the skin for Adam and Eve. (Show lamb and show cross behind lamb)