

## Bible background

Genesis 2 and 3.

## Aim of lesson

To show that to be really happy we must obey God, and that he is sad when we do wrong.

## Preparation required

Collect suitable materials for the children to make a garden, either from drawings, pictures or models: suitable cuttings from bushes to make trees, plasticine for support, sand or dry soil. Or pictures from a magazine or catalogue, with small sticks for support. Concentrate on the trees, because the lesson is built around that part of the story. You may like to take some different fruits.

## Suggested outline of lesson

1. Talk about the creation of Adam and Eve briefly; this is covered fully in Lesson 71.
2. Talk about gardens - what the children like; especially talk about fruit, how does it grow, what are their favourite fruits. Describe the garden God made in Eden; imagine the most perfect garden that you can, with Adam put in charge of looking after it. If you have not been able to collect the materials for a garden, use the first activity sheet to summarise briefly the creation, and the second to introduce the garden God planted.
3. Stress the one thing Adam and Eve were forbidden to do, and discuss with the children how they might feel if they were surrounded by lots of beautiful trees but were not allowed to touch one of them. How do they feel when a similar situation arises at home?
4. Talk about the way in which the serpent lied to them about what God had said, and how they sinned and then hid. Discuss feeling guilty, and how the children feel when they have done something wrong. How would they expect God to have felt? Would he be angry? What could he have done to punish Adam and Eve?
5. Try to communicate the wonder of what God actually did. How the Almighty God who had made the universe, whose people had disobeyed the one thing he had asked of them, then walked in the garden in the cool of the day and went looking for them.
6. Talk about how Adam blamed Eve, and Eve blamed the serpent, and explain how God cursed them and the ground.

## Alternative activities

1. Make serpents by threading beads or cotton reels (can be obtained from shops like Early Learning Centre) on string or by stuffing old socks or legs of tights with paper.
2. Make a book showing the creation story (either individually or as a group). God made...! The children can draw or make collage pictures to illustrate each stage of creation.

## Relevance to the children's lives

What does God ask of us? Do we always do it? Does God know when we do wrong; what should we do when we have? What about when other people hurt us - how should we behave to them?

## Prayer

Ask for God to forgive us when we have done wrong, and ask for help to forgive others when they are sorry.

## Verse

'The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.'

Proverbs 15:3.