

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 2 • Unit 3 • Week 2

THE GARDEN OF EDEN AND THE TWO TREES

OBJECTIVE:

To show that God offers to give us good things and wants us to choose good things rather than bad things.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Prepare in advance: Provide paper flowers and leaf cutouts to decorate your classroom. If possible have real flowers. Teenagers can help to decorate the classroom to give a garden atmosphere. Have two teenagers of medium height or taller dress as trees. They can use brown paper with a hole cut out to place over their heads. The paper should be decorated with leaves and fruit. These can either be drawn on the paper bags or cutouts attached to the bag. One teenager will be labeled tree A; the other, tree B. Decorate tree B to be more attractive than tree A. Have the "trees" stand in the middle of the room.

Say: During the last lesson, we talked about how God created the world, and how He created Adam and Eve to take care of the earth and the animals. Today we are going to talk about the home that God made for Adam and Eve.

Ask: Does anyone know the name of this home?

Say: The Garden of Eden was full of beautiful trees—prettier than any trees that you see here. The Bible says they were "pleasant to the sight and good for food." Before we hear about the garden, I want you to walk around the room in our garden and admire the trees. There are two trees in the middle. Tree A you can touch; tree B you must avoid. Do not touch tree B.

Do: After the children have walked around for while gather them in their seating area.

Ask: Were you tempted to touch tree B? Why?

BIBLE LESSON:

Say: We are going to hear about Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. God gave them a wonderful home. However, just as you were warned not to touch tree B, they were warned not to eat fruit from one of the trees in the garden.

Do: Show the children a Bible.

Say: Our story is found in Genesis chapter 2. Do you remember us reading from this book the last time?

Say: In the Garden of Eden there were all kinds of trees and pretty flowers—God always gives us good things. There was a river and streams to keep the garden well watered. God told Adam and Eve to take care of the garden. He also told them to attend to the animals living there. Adam and Eve enjoyed the scrumptious, delicious fruit they got from the trees, and the pleasant life they had. But this is not the end of the story. God had also put two special trees in the garden.

Ask: In which part of the garden do you think these trees were found?

Say: These two trees were in the middle of the garden. You couldn't miss them. One tree was the tree of life. The other was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God told Adam and Eve that they could eat the fruit of every tree in the garden. However, they were not to eat of the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Ask: Do you know what God said would happen if they ate the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

Say: God said if they did, they would die.

Ask: Does God want us to choose what is right?

Ask: Do you think Adam and Eve obeyed God and did not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil?

Say: The next lesson will tell you what happened. So... stay tuned until next time when you will hear the "rest" of the story.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Art Activity

Supplies Needed:

Pictures of nature from magazines

Large poster board (one piece)

Scissors
Glue
Cutout of man and woman

Prepare in advance: Find magazine pages that have pictures of trees, flowers, animals, birds, rivers, etc.

Help the children select and cut out pictures from the magazine pages. Use the pictures to make a collage of a beautiful garden on one large sheet of paper. They can take turns putting their pieces, which they cut out, on the large sheet of paper. The teacher can add the finishing touch of a cutout of a man and a woman.

MUSIC:

Repeat song from previous lesson, "All Things Bright and Beautiful," but with all verses.

All Things Bright And Beautiful

Chorus

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

First Verse

Each little flow'r that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors; He made their tiny wings.

Chorus

Second Verse

The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky.

Chorus

Third Verse

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden, He made them every one.

Chorus

MEMORY VERSE:

Genesis 2:15 "Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it."

family activity

THE POINT:

To show that God offers to give us good things and wants us to choose good things rather than bad things.

ASK ME...

What was the main point of the lesson today?

What special place did God make for Adam and Eve?

Were they happy in the Garden of Eden?

What were they asked to do in the garden?

Of which tree were they told not to eat of its fruit?

Do you think that they obeyed?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Discuss the importance of taking care of the things given to us.

Discuss the importance of obeying.

Plant a flower garden or plant seeds in a pot and watch as they grow.

MEMORY VERSE:

Genesis 2:15 "Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it."