

Explore It FOR LEADERS



ADAM AND EVE MAKE A CHOICE

📖 Genesis 2:7-9,18-23; 3:1-6,12-13,21-23 The beginning of sin

This month we will continue to learn more about God's creation – but unfortunately things don't quite go to plan. Adam and Eve make a choice that changes everything. After God had given them everything they could possibly need, they took the advice of the serpent and lost their place in the beautiful garden of Eden.

Each child will need:

→ Craft equipment to make Valentine's Day cards – see Action It section

You will need:

→ Creation charade clues folded up in a container – see Start It section

Start It

● **Say:** In Session One we spent time thinking about God's amazing creation. Today we are going to play a game of Charades where all the clues are based on God's creation.

Write each charade clue on a small piece of paper, fold them up and place them in a container. Ask one of the children to act out the word for the rest of the group and see who can guess it. (Be aware of any child with difficulty reading.)

Here are some possible clues: clouds, coconut, desert, earthquake, forest, giraffe, human, lizard, moon, mountains, mouse, ocean, planet, rain, sky, snowball, soil, solar system, stars, sun, volcano, water, waves, whale.

Sing It

● **Say:** In today's story we meet Adam and Eve, the first people God created. They forgot to be grateful for all God had given them, and it did not turn out well! Our song for today helps us not to make the same mistake as Adam and Eve and to remain thankful for all of God's creation.

'If I were a butterfly' by Brian Howard (Unreached corners) (3 mins 9 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-nb5CR1uec

Tell It

● **Say:** Today we are going to carry on moving through the book of Genesis and discover more about Adam and Eve. Watch the clip for a reminder of what we found out in our last session and a quick introduction to today's Bible characters.

Video

Adam and Eve by Saddleback Kids (1 min 14 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=w5T_bzDWMxc

Ask: What two things did God ask Adam and Eve to do?

🗨 **Say:** God provided Adam and Eve with a beautiful garden to look after. It was perfect – but it wasn't enough for Adam and Eve.

In the next clip, we find out what happens when Adam and Eve turn away from God. Use the timings below to stop the clip and discuss the questions.

Video

Adam and Eve sin by Saddleback Kids (3 mins 24 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7TDvJrjjz0

Watch: 0:00–0:38

Ask:

- Where did Adam and Eve live?
- What tree was forbidden?
- Why do you think God didn't want Adam and Eve to know the difference between good and evil?

Watch: 0:38–1:41

Ask:

- Who was the cleverest of all the animals God made?
- What did the serpent ask Eve? How did she reply?
- How did the serpent trick Eve?
- Why do you think Eve listened to the serpent instead of following God's rules?

Watch: 1:41–3:24

Ask:

- What happened when Adam and Eve ate from the forbidden tree?
- When Adam and Eve heard God walking in the garden, what did they do?
- Why do you think they hid from God?
- Who did Adam blame for eating the fruit?
- Do you think that was fair?
- Who did Eve blame for eating the fruit?
- Do you think she was right to do that? If so, why?
- What was the punishment for the serpent?
- What was the punishment for Adam and Eve?
- Why could Adam and Eve no longer live in the garden?

🗨 **Say:** The serpent was able to get Adam and Eve to focus on the one tree in the garden that they could not touch. They were allowed to eat from all the other wonderful, fruit-filled trees in the garden, but it wasn't good enough for them. They had forgotten everything God had given them and focused on what they could not have.

Ask:

- In what ways do we behave in the same way as Adam and Eve?
- Have you ever wanted something that you couldn't have?
- What did it feel like?
- Who said you couldn't have it and what was their reason?

🗨 **Say:** We can sometimes find it difficult when we are told we can't have something or are told not to do something. Often the person saying no to us wants what is best for us and so is putting boundaries in place.

🗨 **Say:** Many of the things that go wrong in our world happen when humans believe they are wiser than God and make decisions that go against what he wants for us. Humans were created to look after God's creation, but instead we have spoiled a lot of the Earth he created.

Ask: What can we learn from Adam and Eve about following the guidelines God has set out for humans to follow?

Action It

Ask: What day is celebrated on 14 February?

🗨️ **Say:** Valentine's Day is a celebration of love, and people across the world send cards and gifts to the ones they love. God loved Adam and Eve so much that he gave them a beautiful garden to live in. They had everything they needed, but they selfishly made a choice that broke God's heart.

🗨️ **Say:** God wants us to make choices that please him and show his love to others.

Ask: Do you know a special phrase to describe The Salvation Army's mission?

🗨️ **Say:** In The Salvation Army we are called to 'Love God, Love Others'. This is a command that Jesus gave to every Christian, not just members of The Salvation Army.

Ask:

➔ In what ways can loving other people sometimes be challenging?

➔ How does it feel when making a choice to love someone else means that we'll miss out on doing something we want to do?

🗨️ **Say:** Adam and Eve put their own feelings above their love for God and made a poor choice. Today we are going to make the choice to love God, love others, and celebrate Valentine's Day all at the same time.

Valentine's Day cards

How you complete this activity depends on your group and local setting, but the aim is to make Valentine cards for a local community. You may have links to a residential home, or there may be people in your church who are currently unable to attend due to illness, or refugees who are settling into the area. Whichever group you decide to connect with, encourage the children to make cards sharing messages of love. They could use some of the Scripture verses below to help create their cards.

➔ John 3:16

➔ Isaiah 54:10

➔ 1 John 4:7-8

➔ Psalm 136:26

➔ Romans 8:37-39

➔ Zephaniah 3:17

When the children have finished their cards, discuss the following question.

Ask: What other good choices could you make this week that show your love for God and your love for others?

Pray It

Ask: Who did Adam and Eve listen to instead of God?

🗨️ **Say:** Adam and Eve became distracted when they listened to the voice of the serpent. The serpent encouraged them to turn away from God's rules and guidelines.

Ask: What kinds of voices encourage you to make the wrong choice?

🗨️ **Say:** As Christians it is important that we take time to listen to God, to silence all the other voices, and rest in him. Our memory verse for this month reminds us to follow God's example and to take time to rest.

Share the memory verse together and see if the children remember the words and the actions they created.

'God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day. He made it holy because on that day he rested. He rested from all the work he had done in creating the world.'

— (Genesis 2:3 ICB)

Ask: Did any of you try the *For Me* activity at home last week? It encouraged you to choose a song and try to rest in God. How did you get on?

🗨️ **Say:** This week our time of quietness will be a little more challenging as we will not be using any music. As we sit quietly for a short while you may want to focus on our memory verse.

This time of quiet will need to be tailored to your group. Some children may find it very difficult to sit quietly, but the hope is for them to gradually become more comfortable taking a moment to rest. When you feel that the time is right, then bring the session to a close as you pray with the group.

Explore It

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.

Explore It

IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

FEBRUARY
SESSION 02

ADAM AND EVE MAKE A CHOICE

 Genesis 2:7-9,18-23; 3:1-6,12-13,21-23 The beginning of sin

FOR ME



Create

In this week's Explore It session we made a good choice! We created cards to share with people who needed a reminder of God's love for them. Can you think of any of your family or friends that need to hear God loves them? Create a card to surprise them with on Valentine's Day.

TOGETHER



Play

Create your own game of Charades to play with the people at home. Choose a theme for your clues and see if anyone can guess what it is.



Song for the week

'If I were a butterfly' by Brian Howard
(Unreached corners)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-nb5CR1uec



Memory verse

'God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day. He made it holy because on that day he rested. He rested from all the work he had done in creating the world.'

— (Genesis 2:3 ICB)

KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive>

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!

