

Lesson Seven Preparation: Genesis 3:1-21

Fall of Man and Original Sin

Lesson Supplies

Catholic Children's Bible with table of contents page marked (page 3)

Journal for each family member and writing supplies

Videos cued up on your device

Objectives

- Sin entered the world through Adam and Eve's free choice.
- Original Sin is the defect we inherit from our first parents.
- God responded to the first sin with the promise to send a Redeemer, Jesus.

Read

From the Bible: Genesis 3:1-21

From the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Only the light of divine Revelation clarifies the reality of sin and particularly of the sin committed at mankind's origins. Without the knowledge Revelation gives of God we cannot recognize sin clearly and are tempted to explain it as merely a developmental flaw, a psychological weakness, a mistake, or the necessary consequence of an inadequate social structure, etc. Only in the knowledge of God's plan for man can we grasp that sin is an abuse of the freedom that God gives to created persons so that they are capable of loving him and loving one another. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraph 387) Man, tempted by the devil, let his trust in his Creator die in his heart and, abusing his freedom, disobeyed God's command. This is what man's first sin consisted of. All subsequent sin would be disobedience toward God and lack of trust in his goodness. (*Catechism*, paragraph 397)

From the *Compendium to the Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Read questions [72-78](#) this will take 5 minutes

Watch

[God's Story: The Fall](#) (3:52)

[What is Original Sin](#) (3:56)

[God's Story](#) (6:45)

[Original Sin](#) (3:50)

Reflect

The story of the Fall in Genesis 3 is one of the most relevant passages in the Bible. It shows us the pattern of how sin enters the world and into our own lives.

How does the Devil tempt Adam and Eve? He makes God's commandment nice and blurry: "Did God really say...?" Then he gets them to doubt God's intentions (verse 5). Through a toxic conversation, he convinces Eve to entertain sin, to rationalize it, to find a way in her own mind to make it ok (verse 6). The Devil also indirectly challenges Adam to be a man and guard the garden, since Adam is standing there the whole time (verse 6).

This story is less about two people eating fruit in a garden and much more about sin and me. What is sin? Sin is when I doubt God's goodness, ignore his commands, and convince myself to do something I know is wrong. Sin always results in shame (verse 7) and damages or destroys our relationship with God. But God always responds to sin by inviting confession (verses 9, 11, and 13) and by his promise to crush the head of the serpent (verse 15). The challenge to us is to accept God's mercy offered in Jesus and his Sacraments.

Lesson Seven: Genesis 3:1-21

Fall of Man and Original Sin

Lesson Summary

- Sin is choosing myself over God.
- Our first parents committed the Original Sin that effects all humans.
- Original sin destroys friendship between God and man, brings death and suffering into the world, and causes disharmony.
- God does not abandon His creation but promises a Savior.

Pray

1. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
2. Who or what would you like to pray for today?
3. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be (*Catholic Children's Bible* page 1992)

Read

Genesis 3:1-21 - The Fall

- Read the passage slowly and out loud at least three times, maybe taking turns.
- Pay attention for a word or phrase that sticks out to you.
- In your journal, write about that word or phrase. Use some of the suggested journal prompts if you need help.

Reflect

Genesis 3 tells us about how sin entered the world. It also shows you how sin enters your life. Adam and Eve chose to do what they knew was wrong. They chose themselves over God, and by doing that, they damaged themselves.

We call this original sin. It is the first sin, but it is also the defect of that sin that is passed on to us—the origin of sin in me. Baptism takes away original sin, but not its results. Now we are attracted to sin, but we can choose to avoid it.

God doesn't respond to this sin with anger. Instead, he responds with love. He invited confession, and then he promises to fix this sin by sending Jesus to crush the head of the serpent.

Watch

- [God's Story: The Fall](#) (3:52)
- [What is Original Sin](#) 3:56
- [Original Sin](#) 3:50
- [God's Story](#) 6:45

Discuss

1. Think of a time when you did something wrong. What did you learn from it?
2. What did God do to Adam and Eve when they disobeyed? What does he do for you when you disobey?
3. In what ways are you tempted? How can you resist temptation?

Salvation History

Sometime this week, read **Jacob Tricks His Brother Esau (Genesis 27:1-29)**, pages 60-61 in the *Catholic Children's Bible*.

This story shows the effects of Adam and Eve's sin. After the Fall, even brothers struggle to live in harmony.

Live

- Begin the habit of a daily examination of conscience. Right before bed, think over your day of the things you are sorry for doing and the good things you could have done but didn't. Then pray an act of contrition.
- As a family, pray the [Litany of Forgiveness](#) and offer each other the sign of peace.

Lesson Seven Supplemental Materials

Fall of Man and Original Sin

Lesson Summary Statements

1. God created a paradise for Adam and Eve. They walked with God in the Garden of Eden.
2. Our first parents participated in the Divine Life of God. There was no suffering, death, sin, or selfishness. Adam and Eve were in harmony with God, each other, and all of creation. The body and soul of Adam and Eve were also in perfect harmony. They were perfectly human
3. Sin is turning away from God, breaking a relationship with God, disobeying God.
4. The Angels disobeyed God, and many became demons. The head demon is the devil
5. Our first parents disobeyed God and his command by wanting to be like him, without His help. This is the Original Sin and is passed on to us, and only removed through baptism
6. Original sin occurred because Adam and Eve gave into the temptation of the devil and disobeyed God's command
7. The effects of original sin are: The loss of participating in God's life (sanctifying grace), the severing of the relationship between God and man, heaven is closed, death and suffering enter into the world, and the loss of harmony between man and God, each other, creation, and within himself.
8. God did not abandon man after original sin. He actually looks for Man, promises a savior who will reconcile God and man, and starts the process of salvation history.
9. Salvation history is the story of God search for man. It starts with the Fall of Adam and Eve and Climaxes with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

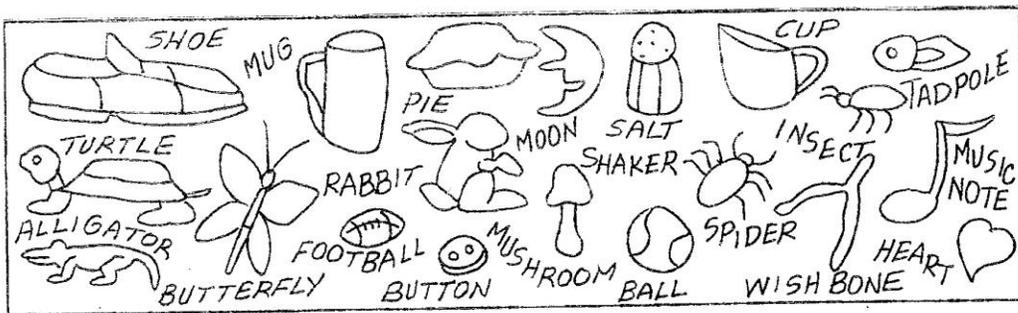
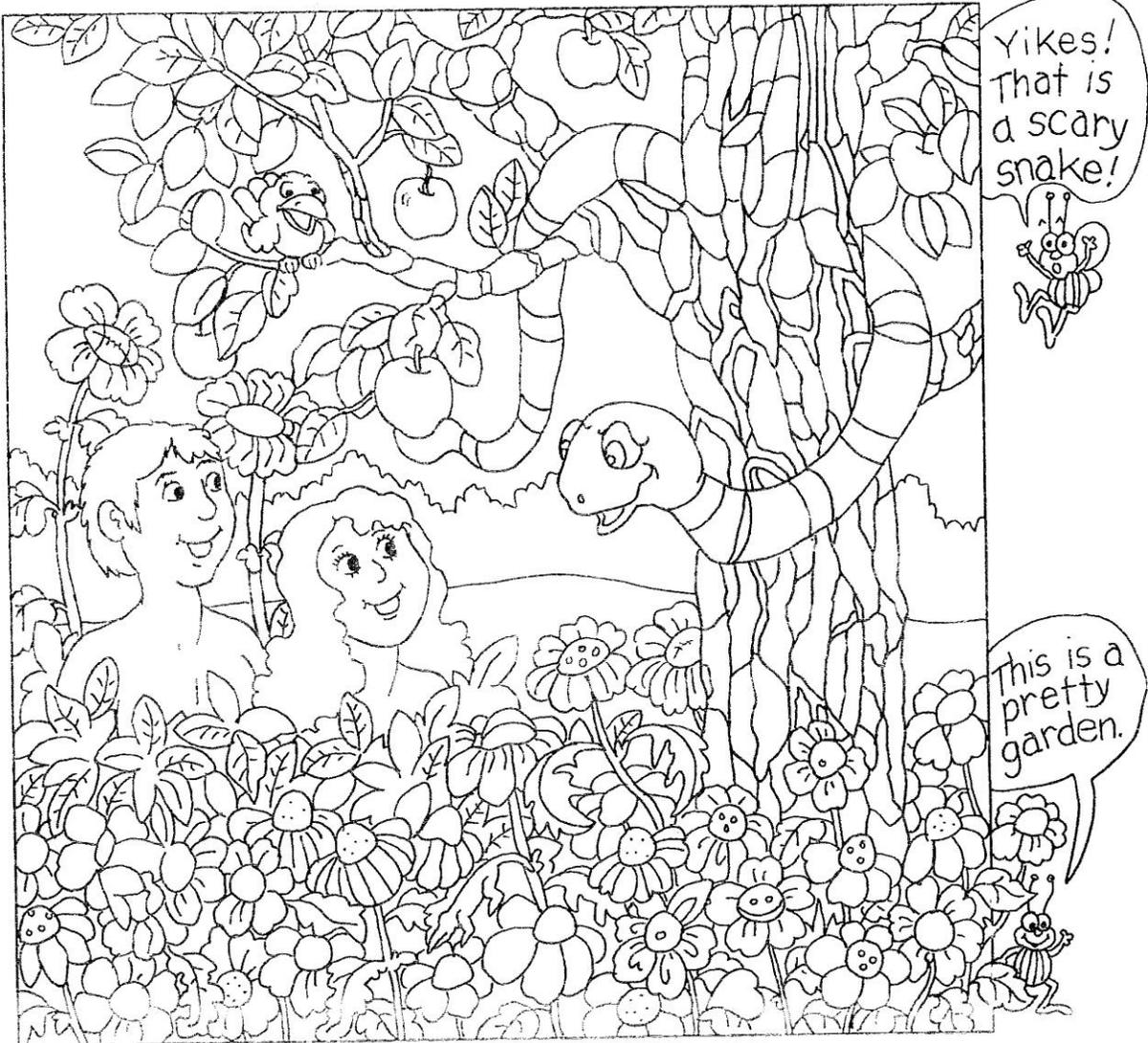
More Resources to Answer Your Questions

Videos

- [Why do we inherit original sin?](#) (7:05)
- [Bishop Barron on Original Sin](#) (10:50)
- [The Fall](#) (30:31)
- [Evil](#) (3:13)

Websites

- [Interior consequences of original sin](#) (a 5 minute read)
- [Catholic Answers](#)
- [Credible Catholic](#)
- [Formed.org](#)



Find the hidden pictures above in the puzzle.

Adam and Eve were God's creation. (Read the story in Genesis 1)