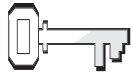


Hiding From God



References

Genesis 2:8, 9, 16, 17; 3;
*Patriarchs and
Prophets*, pp. 49–70



Memory Verse

“If we confess our sins,
he is faithful and just
and will forgive us
our sins and purify us
from all unrighteousness”
(1 John 1:9, NIV).



Objectives

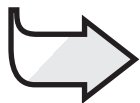
The children will:

Know that

God’s plan for dealing
with sin includes forgiveness.

Feel thankful that God has
a plan for dealing with sin and will
forgive us when we do wrong.

Respond by accepting
God’s plan and seeking His
forgiveness when we do wrong.



The Message

God still loves us
and will forgive us
if we are truly sorry
when we do something wrong.

Monthly Theme

God has always loved us. He loved us even before we were born.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

God creates Adam and Eve and surrounds them with gifts of love. One gift is expressed in negative terms: They are not to touch the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Eve gives in to Satan’s temptation and eats the fruit of the tree. Then she gives the fruit to Adam. When God comes, each blames someone else for their sin. God forgives them and tells them of His plan to deal with sin.

This is a lesson about grace.

Even though Adam and Eve disobeyed God, He did not abandon them. He would not wipe out the consequences of their sin, but He forgave them. God then told them of the greatest gift of all—the gift of salvation through one who would come to save them.

Teacher Enrichment

“God placed man under law, as an indispensable condition of his very existence. He was a subject of the divine government, and there can be no government without law. God might have created man without the power to transgress His law; He might have withheld the hand of Adam from touching the forbidden fruit; but in that case man would have been, not a free moral agent, but a mere automaton. Without freedom of choice, his obedience would not have been voluntary, but forced. There could have been no development of character. Such a course would have been contrary to God’s plan in dealing with the inhabitants of other worlds. It would have been unworthy of man as an intelligent being, and would have sustained Satan’s charge of God’s arbitrary rule” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 49).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 1.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Invisible Bonds</i> B. <i>No Place to Hide</i> C. <i>Changing Color</i>	"invisible" or light-colored cotton thread none pictures of camouflaged animals/insects
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> shell or other natural container fruit shapes (see p. 140), basket, pencils
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	adult Bible-times costume, woman none Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	A. <i>Clean Hands and Heart</i> B. <i>Filling in the Holes</i>	newspaper, hand cream or lotion, water, soap, towel, trash can small block of wood per child, nails, claw hammer for every five children
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Heart Bookmark</i>	red and white card stock hearts (see p. 141), glue, markers

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Listen to last week’s memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- “invisible” or light-colored cotton thread

A. Invisible Bonds

Ask for two volunteers. Loosely tie them together with the thread. Ask them to go to opposite ends of the room. The thread will break, and they will be able to move easily. Ask for two more volunteers. Repeat, but tie them with five or six lengths of thread. Ask them to go to opposite ends of the room. Depending on the thickness of the thread they may be able to do so.

Debriefing

Ask: **What was it like being tied together? Was it easy to break free? How easy was it to see the thread?** (difficult; could only see it because we were looking for it) **What was it like to be tied with several threads? How easy was it to break free?** (more difficult) To the class: **Could you see the thread linking them?** (easier because there were several strands) **The thread is like sin. At first we do not see it, but as it gets a stronger hold on us, it is easier to see but harder to break free. We will learn more about the way sin gets hold of us in our lesson today. But God has a plan to help us. He will forgive us when we do wrong. Today’s message is:**



GOD STILL LOVES US AND WILL FORGIVE US IF WE ARE TRULY SORRY WHEN WE DO SOMETHING WRONG.

Say that with me.

B. No Place to Hide

Say: **I am going to close my eyes and count to 20. During that time I want you to find somewhere to hide in this room. You are not to open cupboards or move anything.** When you open your eyes, you should be able to see most of the children as there are few places to hide.

Debriefing

Ask: **Who was able to hide? Who wasn’t? Why? How did you feel when you wanted to hide but there was no good hiding place? Have you ever wanted to run away and hide? Why? In our lesson today two people did something wrong, and they tried to hide from God. But they couldn’t. God still loved them, and He forgave them. He will forgive us too, when we do wrong things. And that’s what our message for today says:**



GOD STILL LOVES US AND WILL FORGIVE US IF WE ARE TRULY SORRY WHEN WE DO SOMETHING WRONG.

Say that with me.

C. Changing Color

Show pictures of animals or insects that are good at hiding in their surroundings. If possible, have “stick” insects or other animals for the children to look at. Explain what they do to blend in with their background.

Debriefing

Ask: **Why do [name animals] need to hide? Do you ever feel like you want to hide? Why? In today’s story two people did something God had told them not to do, so they tried to hide from Him. But God still loved them and forgave them. And He will forgive us today when we do something wrong. That’s what today’s message is about:**



GOD STILL LOVES US AND WILL FORGIVE US IF WE ARE TRULY SORRY WHEN WE DO SOMETHING WRONG.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- pictures of camouflaged animals/insects

Prayer and Praise Any Time



Fellowship

Report the students’ joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing from last week’s lesson study and review last week’s memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

- “All Things Bright and Beautiful” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 51)
- “Can You Imagine?” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 29)
- “He’s Everything to Me” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 43)
- “This Is a Lovely World” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 52)
- “Think of a World Without Any Flowers” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 60)



Mission

Share a story from *Children’s Mission*. Emphasize God’s grace in the story.



Offering

Say: **We enjoy the freedom to come to Sabbath School every week. People in other places may not have the same freedom. When we give our offerings, we help to create ways for others to hear about Jesus.**

You Need:

- shell or other natural container



Prayer

Give each child a fruit shape and help them to write or draw something they want God to forgive. On the other side write or draw something they want to thank God for. Put the papers in the basket and pray for forgiveness, then thank God for all He has given us.

You Need:

- fruit shapes (see p. 140)
- basket
- pencils

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- Bible-times costume for woman
- woman

Experiencing the Story

Invite a woman to read or tell the story from Eve's perspective. Have the children do a "thumbs up" when she says **God**, and give the thumbs down sign when she says **serpent** or **snake**.

Read or tell the story.

My name is Eve. I was the first woman **God** created. I lived with my husband Adam in a beautiful garden. During the day we worked in our garden home. We enjoyed taking care of the plants and animals. But the best part of the day was the evening. **God** would come and talk with us then. On the seventh day, the Sabbath, we spent the whole day with **God**. We never wanted Sabbath to end.

God gave us everything in the garden except one tree—the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. He told us that we must never eat the fruit or even touch that tree. I did not think much about it. There were so many other wonderful things to taste.

One day as I was walking through the garden I came to a clearing. I recognized the tree at once. As I stood looking at it, a beautiful creature called a **serpent** began to talk to me. Later I learned that it was Satan. I certainly did not expect him to appear like that.

I was surprised. This **serpent** had a beautiful voice, soft and melodious. I was fascinated. Then it spoke to me! "Is it true that God has told you that you are not to eat from any tree in the garden?" he asked.

I know I should have run away. Instead I answered that **serpent**: "**God** told us we can eat from the other trees. However, this one—well, we are not even to touch it. If we do we will die."

The **serpent** answered, "**God** is just afraid you will be as smart as He is. You will not die if you eat the fruit. You will become as wise as **God**."

I should have believed that **God** knew best. And I should have believed what He had told us. Instead, I reached out and touched the fruit.

Nothing happened.

Then I picked one and bit into it. It was soft and juicy and tasted good.

Still nothing happened.

So I picked another fruit and gave it to Adam. He recognized the fruit at once. When I explained what had happened, he took a bite. Immediately the beautiful, glowing clothing God had given us disappeared. We were naked! And we were ashamed! So we went to a fig tree and got some big leaves to make coverings for ourselves.

That evening, when we heard **God** walking through the garden, we hid from Him. We were so ashamed. But **God** came to us and asked why we were hiding.

Adam told him we were hiding because we were naked. **God** knew what we had done. He was so sad. He told us that we would have to leave the garden. And we would begin to get old, and eventually we would die.

Our life outside the garden would be hard. Weeds would grow. There would be thorns and poisonous snakes. The animals would be dangerous. And everything else would die too—the plants and the animals that lived on earth.

I cannot tell you how sad we were. But in all our sadness something wonderful happened. **God** told us about His plan to save us. He would send His Son into the world. His Son would take the blame for all the things we did wrong. He would die for us, so He could save us and restore us to live in **God's** presence.

Then **God** killed a lamb and showed us how to sacrifice it. Only then did we begin to realize what it meant to die.

Many years later, Jesus came to this earth. He showed people how to live. And then He died for everyone's sins—mine and yours. Remember—**God** still loved us. He forgave our sins, and He will forgive your sins if you are truly sorry and ask Him to.

Someday soon, Jesus will come again. He wants you to be with Him in heaven. I want to be there, don't you?

Debriefing

Ask: **What should Eve have done when she met the serpent?** (Run away, leave that place.) **Why did she give in to temptation?** (She was persuaded by a beautiful creature. She stayed when she should have left.) **Why did she not realize that the serpent was Satan?** (He acted in a way that she was not expecting. He didn't look or talk like something evil.)

How did God react? (He was sad, but He had a plan ready, so that once again God and people would be able to be together.) **God is still willing to forgive us when we are wrong. He wants us to make things right. If we are truly sorry, all we need to do is ask Him. Remember our message:**



GOD STILL LOVES US AND WILL FORGIVE US IF WE ARE TRULY SORRY WHEN WE DO SOMETHING WRONG.

Memory Verse

Form three groups. Assign one phrase of the memory verse to each group. (See activity.) Have a helper assist each group as they study their phrase. Then have each group repeat their phrase in order. Switch phrases and

repeat. Switch again and repeat. Repeat until all know the verse.

Group 1: **"If we confess our sins,**

Group 2: **he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins**

Group 3: **and purify us from all unrighteousness" 1 John 1:9.**

Bible Study

Say: **God gave Adam and Eve—and us—the power to make choices. He knew that they (and we) might choose not to trust Him, and to disobey Him. He also made a plan to deal with our sin. Let's look at God's plan and see how God looks at sin when we ask Him to forgive us.** Adults assist as needed. Allow time for discussion of each text.

John 3:16

Isaiah 1:18

Micah 7:19

1 John 1:9

Debriefing

Ask: **When did God make His plan? We call it the plan of salvation. Even before He created the world, God had a plan to wipe out the effects of sin.**

What happens when you ask God to forgive your sins? (He takes them away. It is as if they never existed.)

What do we need to do to receive forgiveness? (We need to confess or tell God what we have done and ask Him to forgive us. We also need to ask forgiveness of people we have wronged.) **God forgives us when we do mean things to each other, and He wants us to forgive one another too. Remember our message:**



GOD STILL LOVES US AND WILL FORGIVE US IF WE ARE TRULY SORRY WHEN WE DO SOMETHING WRONG.

You Need:

- Bibles

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- newspaper
- hand cream or lotion
- water
- soap
- towel
- trash can

A. Clean Hands and Heart

Give the children some hand cream or lotion to rub into their hands. Then give them a sheet of newspaper. Say: **If your paper has reports of violence or something bad happening, crush it and throw it in the trash can.** Allow time. **Now look at your hands. What happened to them?** They will be covered with newsprint. Let the children wash their hands.

Debriefing

Ask: **What happened when we crushed the newspaper? How is that like our lives when we do wrong?** (Our lives are like our hands. They are dirty with sin.)

What can we do to clean up our lives? (We can ask God to forgive us.)

What does God do with our sins when we ask for forgiveness? (He takes them away. He doesn't even remember them.) **Remember our message:**



GOD STILL LOVES US AND WILL FORGIVE US IF WE ARE TRULY SORRY WHEN WE DO SOMETHING WRONG.

B. Filling in the Holes

Give each child a small block of wood and a nail. Help them to hammer the nail into the wood and then pull the nail out.

You Need:

- small block of wood per child
- nails
- claw hammer for every five children

Debriefing

Say: **When we do something wrong, it is like hammering a nail in a nice piece of wood. When we say we are sorry, it is like taking the nail out of the wood. Is the wood the same after you have pulled the nail out?** (No, there is a hole in it.)

When we ask God to forgive us, He forgives and forgets about our sin. Sometimes there are hurts that need to be taken care of. We need to say sorry to someone else as well.

Sin makes holes in our lives that are hard to fill. Let's ask God to help us not to do things that will hurt ourselves and others. Gather the children in a circle and pray for help to avoid hurting others.

Let's say our message together:



GOD STILL LOVES US AND WILL FORGIVE US IF WE ARE TRULY SORRY WHEN WE DO SOMETHING WRONG.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Heart Bookmark

In advance, prepare a red and a white heart for each child. (See page 141.) Give each child a red and a white heart.

Glue the sides together. When the glue is dry, the heart can be used as a bookmark to slip over the corner of a page.

Help the children write Isaiah 1:18 on the white heart. ("Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.")

Divide the children into pairs and have them explain to each other what happens when we sin and how God can make our hearts clean again.

You may wish to have each child make two bookmarks, one to share and one to keep.

Debriefing

Ask: **When is our heart like the red**

You Need:

- red and white card stock hearts (see p. 141)
- glue
- markers

heart? Why do you think Isaiah used scarlet to remind us of our sins? (Jesus had to die for us. Scarlet is the color of blood.)

How can we change the red heart into a white one? (Only by telling God what we have done wrong and asking forgiveness of God and anyone we have hurt.)

We can be thankful that God is always willing to forgive our sins. Take your heart bookmark home and give it to someone today. Tell them how God always loves us and wants to forgive us when we do wrong.

Let's remember our message. It will remind us of God's love. Say it with me.



GOD STILL LOVES US AND WILL FORGIVE US IF WE ARE TRULY SORRY WHEN WE DO SOMETHING WRONG.

Closing

Invite the children to stand in a circle and sing "Into My Heart" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 125). Follow with a prayer thanking God for always being with us and for forgiving us.

Hiding From God

References

Genesis 2:8, 9, 16, 17; 3; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 49–70

Memory Verse

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9, NIV).

The Message

God still loves us and will forgive us if we are truly sorry when we do something wrong.

Have you ever done something wrong and been afraid to say that you did? Adam and Eve must have felt that way. It probably happened like this . . .

Adam and Eve were happy in their garden home. The best part of the day was the evening. That’s when God often came and talked with them. On the seventh day, Sabbath, they spent the whole day with God. They probably never wanted Sabbath to end.

God told them to enjoy everything in the garden, except one tree—the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. He said: “You must never touch the tree or eat the fruit. If you do, you will surely die.”

One day Eve was walking through the garden and came near the tree. As she looked at it, a beautiful creature, a serpent, began to talk to her. “Is it true that God has told you that you can’t eat from this tree?” the serpent asked.

Eve knew she should go away from that place, but she didn’t. Instead, she answered the snake: “God told us we can eat from all the trees in the garden—except this one. We are not to eat its fruit. We are not even to touch it! If we do, we will die.”

The snake answered, “You won’t die. You will be as smart as God is! Eating the fruit will make you wise.”

Eve reached out and touched the fruit. Nothing happened. Then she took some fruit and bit into it. It tasted good. She picked more and gave it to Adam. When he knew Eve had eaten some, he ate some too.

As soon as Adam took a bite something happened to them. They realized that they were naked! They were ashamed—and afraid. They knew they had done wrong. They

ran to a fig tree and used its leaves to cover themselves.

That evening, when they heard God walking through the garden, they hid. They were ashamed to meet Him. When God found them, He asked: “Why were you hiding?”

He knew the answer, but He gave them time to confess. He was sad as He listened to Adam.

“We heard You in the garden,” Adam told God. “And we were afraid.”

God knew what they had done and He was sad. They would have to face the consequences. He told them that they would have to leave the beautiful garden. They would begin to get old and eventually die. Life outside the garden would be hard. Weeds would grow. There would be thorns. The animals would be dangerous and fearful. And everything else would die, too—the plants and the animals.

Adam and Eve were very sad. But in all the sadness something wonderful happened. God did not leave them alone. He told them about His plan to make things right. He would send His Son into the world. His Son would die and take the blame for all the things they did wrong.

Then God took a lamb and killed it. He showed Adam and Eve how to sacrifice



it. Only then did they begin to realize what it meant to die. And they were very sad.

Yes, God forgave Adam and Eve for disobeying Him. And He will forgive you when you do wrong, if you ask Him, and if you are really sorry. He wants to help you do what is right. And He wants you to be ready to go to heaven when Jesus comes again.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- If possible, go to a lovely garden with your family and look at the beautiful things God has made. As you walk, discuss what you think the Garden of Eden looked like. Play "I spy" by saying "I spy something God made on the [name a day of Creation]."
- When you get home, draw a circle for the center of a flower. Make a petal for each memory verse word and write the words on them. Arrange the petals around the center with the words in the right order. Use this to teach the verse to your family.
- Sing about God's beautiful world and thank Him for making beautiful things.

Sunday

- During worship read and discuss Genesis 2:8, 9, 16, 17. Read about another tree in Revelation 22:1, 2. What is special about it? Draw a picture of the two trees.
- Find out what a fig leaf looks like. What are the largest leaves on the trees near where you live?
- Hold a piece of paper against a tree trunk. Rub a crayon on the paper. What do you see?
- Sing songs of praise and thank God for trees.

Monday

- Read and discuss Genesis 3:1-7 during worship. What did you learn about the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil? Talk about ways to say "no" when you are tempted to do something wrong. Say your memory verse together. Thank God for helping you to do what is right. And for forgiving you when you do something wrong.

Tuesday

- Read and discuss Genesis 3:8-18 with your family.
- Ask about snakes in your country. Where do they live? What do they eat? Are any

poisonous? Ask someone to help you make a model snake. (The snake in Eden must have been very beautiful to attract Eve's attention.)

- Play a short game of hide and seek with your family. Then thank God that you do not need to hide from Him when you do things that are wrong.

Wednesday

- For family worship read and discuss Genesis 3:20-24. What did God use to make clothes for Adam and Eve? Where do you think He got them? What are your clothes made of?
- Ask someone to stand outside a closed door for a few minutes. Ask: What does it feel like to be shut out? What do you think Adam and Eve thought about being shut out from their garden home?
- Even though Adam and Eve could not go back into the garden, God had a plan. What was it? Is that same plan for you and your family?
- Sing songs of praise for God's plan, then thank Him for it.

Thursday

- For supper tonight, share some fruit salad with your family. Before worship, get some cotton and color it red. (Try a little food coloring.)
- During worship read Isaiah 1:18 together. What does it mean? Use the cotton to explain the verse to your family.
- Say the memory verse together. Thank God for making us clean when we ask for forgiveness.

Friday

- During worship review the story and act it out with your family. Remember, God forgave Adam and Eve. Say your memory verse together. Who needs God's forgiveness? Do you need to ask for forgiveness to anyone in your family? If so, do it now.
- Sing "Alleluia" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 16), then invite God to be with you on His special day. Thank Him for telling about His plans in the Bible.