



Leader Guide

Separation

October Separation

Big Idea:

Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, but God still loved them and cared for them even though they had to be disciplined because of their disobedience.

Scripture:

Genesis 1-3

Memory Verse:

For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 6:23

Story of God- Leader Info

Kids' City is changing up the lessons a little bit! We are starting on a journey together to understand the Story of God, and grow closer to Him and know Him better along the way! The lessons each week will now be chronological stories from the Bible told to the kids orally in a Story-formed way.

Stories are the most powerful form of communication we have. Stories speak to the mind, the body, and the emotions —our spirits. In a story, we can identify with situations we have never been in. Every culture and society of people that have ever existed has been this way. We are all storytellers and we all LOVE stories.

Jesus was a GREAT storyteller!

The disciples came up and asked, “Why do you tell stories?” Jesus replied, “You’ve been given insight into God’s kingdom. You know how it works. Not everybody has this gift, this insight; it hasn’t been given to them. Whenever someone has a ready heart for this, the insights and understanding flow freely. But if there is no readiness, any trace of receptivity soon disappears. That’s why I tell stories: to create readiness, to nudge the people toward receptive insight.”
Matthew 13:10-13 (The Message)

Goals of Telling the Story

-To understand, experience, and intersect with God’s story.

-To become a ‘story-formed’ kids and people whose lives are daily shaped by the truths of the Story.

-To make disciples of Jesus who make disciples.

-To see and experience God’s “Redemptive Arc” throughout history as found in the Bible—seeing the connection between all of the stories— and seeing the Bible as one big story.

-To be moved by a Story that points to a God who constantly pursues us and desires to know us.

-To see the intersection of ours’ and the kids’ stories with God’s Story.

-To understand our identity differently in light of God’s story, who he is, and who he created us to be.

-To “live in the gospel”, seeing the world differently, seeking to further God’s Kingdom - to live missionally.

-To become excited about the biblical narratives, reading and learning more about them in the Bible.

-To learn to retell these stories and help others to see how they can find themselves in God’s story.

Introduction in Small Groups

Intro

Questions for the Kids about their week and to get them thinking about the lesson they will be going over.

1. What happened this past week that was really awesome?
2. What happened this past week that was a bummer?
3. What is your favorite thing about the Fall?
4. What is your favorite fruit to eat?
5. Have you ever done something that your parents told you NOT to do? Did you get in trouble afterwards?

Expected Behaviors

Go over the Expected Behaviors for the kids while they are in small group before Large Group begins.

1. Be respectful of others
2. Only one student speaks at a time
3. Listen quietly when others are speaking
4. Keep hands and feet to yourself
5. Follow the directions given by your leaders

Large Group

Game

The kids are going to bob for apples! Take the bucket of water with apples in it outside and give each child around 30-45 seconds to get an apple. Time them, so that they do not spend the whole time just bobbing for apples, and then just give them an apple if they haven't gotten one in that time. (Make sure that each child is not allergic to apples.) Allow each child to have one if they want one! After every child has had a chance, move everyone back inside and begin the lesson!

Prayer, Offering, and Communion

Pray for the kids as they begin a new lesson, and ask the kids if they have anything specifically they would like to pray about! Pray for their requests during the week. Collect the offering if the kids have any, after the prayer. For the kids that have been baptized they can take communion at this time. Explain to the children that communion is a time for us to remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross and thank Him for all He has done for us!

Retell the Story from Last Week

Guide the children through the last story, The First Humans. You will probably need to ask a few guiding questions such as...

- What did we learn about God in the story?
- How did God make humans different than the fish, birds and animals?

What kind of relationship did God have with humans?

What do you think God gave them the two trees? What did God want them to do?

Tell the Story (Don't just read it—know it and bring it to life!)

One day, Satan went to Eve disguised as a snake. He asked Eve, “Did God really say you can't eat any of the fruit in the garden?” Eve told him, “No, we can eat from any tree in the garden. It's only the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil that we are not allowed to eat from—or even touch, or we will die.”

Trying to trick Eve, the snake said, “You won't really die! God knows that when you eat the fruit from that tree your eyes will be opened and you will become just like him! You will know everything, both good and evil.” When Eve saw how delicious the fruit looked, she thought, “We will know everything!” Then she took some of it and ate it. She also gave some to Adam, who was with her, and he also ate it. They chose not to believe God and to believe the lie.

As soon as they ate the fruit, they realized they were naked—they were already naked before but now they were ashamed of their nakedness. They picked fig leaves and put them together around their hips to cover their nakedness.

Toward evening, they heard God walking in the garden, so they hid themselves in some trees. God called to them, “Where are you?”, and Adam answered, “I heard you coming and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.” God answered, “Why are you ashamed of being naked? Did you eat the fruit I told you not to eat?” Adam said, “It was the woman you gave me. She gave me some.” Then God said to Eve, “How could you do this?” Eve replied, “The snake tricked me into eating the fruit.” So God said to the snake, “Because you have done this, you and your kind are cursed to crawl on your belly and eat dust the rest of your life. You will be the enemy of women and her sons. You will bite his heel, but he will crush your head.”

God's heart was broken because they disobeyed him—they didn't believe that God loved them and wanted what was best for them—and he had to do something about it. Remember, God always does what is right and true and he also cannot let disobedience just go. So God punished Adam and Eve by throwing them out of the Garden—outside of his care and protection.

Because Adam and Eve did not follow God's ways, they were now going to get sick, feel pain, and eventually die. God told them, “Now because of what you have done your life will not be easy—you will have many problems and feel pain, then you go back to the ground where you came from.” But God still loved Adam and Eve. He even created clothing for them out of animal skins so they would be covered outside of the Garden. After removing Adam and Eve from the garden, God stationed powerful angels outside of the entrance to the garden. A flaming sword flashed back and forth, guarding the way to the Tree of Life. Humans would no longer be able to eat from the Tree of Life and live forever.

Small Groups

Retell the Story

This may seem redundant, but it is very effective in helping your kids remember and own the story. You will want to help them retell the story by giving them leading questions like: So, where did the story begin? What did the snake say to Eve? What did Adam and Eve do after they ate the fruit?

Dialogue

Remember **this is a dialogue, not a quiz**. The questions are a good start to draw out observations about the story, and the “answers” are just there to help you guide kids toward some key ideas.

1. What do we know about this snake? What did he try to do? How?

He was bad—evil

He tried to make them not believe what God had said

He lied about what God had said by telling Eve that the fruit would make her like God.

Where have we seen this before?

2. Why was it a bad idea for them to eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil?

God told them not to

They would get punished for it—they would have pain and die

They wanted to be God and be able to determine what is right of wrong instead of God.

3. What happened to their relationship with God and each other because of their disobedience?

They were now afraid of God and embarrassed with each other

They were kicked out of the garden where they would live close to God

4. Why do you think God punishes them for their disobedience?

Because God is perfect and good and holy, he will never allow evil to remain in his presence.

His holiness requires that sin be punished.

5. What do we learn about people in this story?

People can be deceived into believing wrong things.

People can choose God’s ways or their own.

When people sin they tend to hide and blame.

6. What do we learn about God in this story?

God knows all things. He knew Adam and Eve had eaten from the tree.

God punishes sin—the snake’s head would be crushed by man; the man and woman would experience pain and death

God keeps his promises—he said they would die if they ate of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and eventually they would

God is gracious—he still took care of them—he made clothing for them out of animal skins.

Application (Optional questions that may help apply the story)

7. What do you like best about the story and why?

8. How are we like Adam and Eve?

Activity

Have the kids act out the story! Have kids volunteer to be Adam, Eve, the snake, and God. Guide the children through the story if they have trouble remembering what to do or say next. After they act it out, have different kids act it out if they would like to. This can be done as a large group or in small groups.

Extra Time Activities

If there is extra time, have the kids look up the passages from the story and read them out loud and/or do the word searches and color sheets.