

Discovery Adventure #2  
**Evil Makes an Entrance**  
Genesis 3

Hang onto your hats and make sure your brain is turned on! Now we are going to learn about the most important, most amazing and most life-changing secret of all. We'll answer the question about where evil came from. And we'll learn what our amazing God did to conquer it.

It started back with Adam and Eve. They had it made. They lived in a beautiful garden. There were no bugs, no weeds, no thorns or stickers. The Garden of Eden was perfect. They had all the animals in the world as pets. It may be that they could even talk with the animals. We know Eve didn't seem surprised when the snake talked to her later in our story.

Whether Adam and Eve could talk with the animals or not, we know that they could talk to God. They walked and talked together just as you and your friends do. But something happened that changed the world for Adam and Eve, and for us.

God gave everything in the whole world to Adam and Eve. They could eat the fruit from any of the trees. God had forbidden them only one thing. They weren't to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

One day Eve was looking at the tree when someone came up to talk to her. Someone who meant to make trouble for her. That someone was Satan, the devil. He had already been in trouble, himself. Satan was once the most beautiful of all the angels. At that time he was called "Lucifer" or "Son of the Morning."

Then he decided he wanted to be like God, the one in charge. He led a rebellion against God in Heaven. We know that God is holy. He can't bear sin and can't have it anywhere near Him. He threw Lucifer and the angels who followed him out of Heaven.

They were doomed to the worst punishment ever – to be shut out of Heaven and cut off from God. Everything good comes from God, so they could never again be good or enjoy anything good. Their punishment would last forever without any hope of anything ever

getting better. That was a terrible judgment, but that's what their sin deserved.

Satan decided to make trouble for God's new creation. He took the form of a serpent, or snake. The snake looked different back then. Maybe it walked on legs, or even flew. We don't know for sure. We know it could talk because it spoke to Eve.

"Has God said you can't eat from every tree in the garden?" he said.

Eve answered Satan, "We may eat the fruit from the rest of the trees of the garden, but not this one. God says that if we eat it we will die."

"You won't die," Satan said. "If you eat this, you'll be like God."

Does that sound familiar? That's just what Satan himself did. He sinned by wanting to be the boss, like God.

Eve believed him and took the fruit from the forbidden tree and ate it. That was the first sin, and the ruin of the perfect world God made. Eve persuaded Adam to eat the fruit, too. Then they both were sinners.

Before they sinned, Adam and Eve had only perfect, pure thoughts. They didn't think much about their bodies. After they sinned, they felt a need to cover up so they sewed some fig leaves together to make clothes for themselves. The next thing they did was to hide from God.

Can anyone hide from God? Of course not. God knew where they were and He knew what they had done.

He still asked them, "What did you do?" because He wanted them to admit their sin.

"It's Eve's fault," Adam said. "She talked me into eating the fruit."

"It's the snake's fault," Eve said. "He tricked me."

Do you think God was impressed with these excuses? No, Adam and Eve sinned and sin always has consequences. Now the perfect new world was spoiled. They had to leave the beautiful Garden of Eden forever. An angel stood in the gate with a flaming sword to keep them from ever coming back.

The animals were no longer tame and friendly. It was hard to raise food to eat because

of the weeds and bugs.

Worse than that, they died. Their bodies began to die, just as all of us are slowly dying, but their souls were already dead, separated from God. Because they were sinners, their children would be sinners. Their grandchildren and great-grandchildren would be sinners. There would never again be people who were perfect. Everyone born into the world would die.

When Satan and his angels sinned, they were cast away from God. There was no hope for them. But God loved Adam and Eve. He made a way for them to be forgiven. All sin must be paid for by death, so God planned to send His Son in the form of a human. Jesus would live a perfect life, and then He would pay the penalty for sin. He would die and be separated from God.

Can you imagine how much love it took to do that? You might decide to die for your brother or sister or your best friend, or someone who had been especially good to you. That would be an amazing sacrifice.

But would you die for someone who was always mean and hateful to you? That's what God did. He died for people who hated Him and were His enemies.

We can see how much God loves His people because He planned from the very first to make a way for us to be saved. And it was a terrible, hard way! It meant Jesus would come to suffer a horrible death. He would die and to be separated from God in our place.

God took animals and killed them. The blood of the innocent animals ran out on the ground. God was showing that one day Jesus would bleed and die, too. He gave the animal skins to Adam and Eve to wear. The animal skins didn't save them. They were a sign that one day Jesus would come and die. His blood would pour out like the blood of the animals.

But unlike the animals, Jesus would come back to life! After He paid for our sins, He rose again and gave eternal life to us, too.

## God's Secrets for You

Adam and Eve's sin didn't affect just them. Everyone now has that sinful, or fallen, nature that says, "I want to be like God. I want to be the boss."

You have that sinful nature. That's why you are selfish, why you lie easily, and why you get mad. Just as Adam and Eve died spiritually, you are dead spiritually.

God made a way for Adam and Eve to be forgiven, and He has made a way for you to be forgiven, too. He sent Jesus to pay the penalty for sin.

Is it enough just to know that Jesus died? No! Sin -- wanting to be the boss -- is what keeps us from God. We can't be saved from sin and still want our sin! Salvation means surrendering to God. We see that we are dead in sin and can't do anything to save ourselves. We believe that Jesus paid the penalty for our sin on the cross. And we surrender our way to His. When you are saved, you want Jesus to be the boss. You follow Him gladly and do whatever He says.

Everyone, without exception, is born a sinner. Everyone needs to be saved. That means you, too. If you aren't saved, that means you are God's enemy, separated from God by sin. It won't help to try to do better. You can never be perfect. You can never be good enough for God.

But you can come to Him and ask Him to forgive you. You can trust Him when He says that Jesus died to pay for your sins. And you can surrender to Him as your boss. He is a good God! You will never be sorry that you trusted Him.

## Brain Glue

Where did Adam and Eve live?

*In the Garden of Eden*

What one tree did God forbid them to eat from?

*The tree of the knowledge of good and evil*

Who talked Eve into eating the fruit?

*Satan*

What form did the devil take?

*That of a snake*

Why was Satan cast out of heaven?

*Because he wanted to be the boss, like God.*

What did Adam and Eve do after they sinned?

*They sewed fig leaves together to make clothes and they hid from God.*

What happened to Adam and Eve's bodies after they sinned?

*They began to die.*

What happened to Adam and Eve's souls after they sinned?

*They were dead, separated from God.*

How did God show that one day He would send a Savior to pay for their sins?

*He killed innocent animals and made coats of skins for Adam and Eve.*

Did the animal skins save Adam and Eve?

*No, trusting God to send a Savior saved them.*

What else happened as a result of the fall?

*They were cast out of the Garden of Eden and the world was no longer perfect.*

How did God make sure Adam and Eve could never go back to the Garden?

*He put an angel with a flaming sword in the gate.*

## Think About It

What can we learn about God from this story?

What did God do to make it possible for us to be forgiven and to be friends with God?

Who is the boss of your life right now?