

Week 5: God’s Loving Gift of Choice

Genesis 2:8-9, 15-17; Genesis 3:1-4

Objectives

Students will . . .

- Explain the importance of having the choice to follow God or not.
- Identify at least four gifts God gave to Adam and Eve.

Week at a Glance

To the Teacher: Pray for your students daily and prayerfully study the verses given above.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lesson	Amazing Gifts	God Gives Humans a Choice	The Eternal “Y”	The Big Lie	Show What You Know
Big Idea	God gives the gift of choice.	What we choose shows who we love.	There is a war between Satan’s way and God’s way.	Believe Satan’s lies or God’s truth.	Review and administer this week’s quiz.
Videos					
Materials	Samples of unusual fruits		Labels or signs of different fruit trees		
Copies	Daily Bible Connection				Show What You Know Quiz

MONDAY: Amazing Gifts

Hook: Hands-On Activity

Taste Test—Serve small samples of various fruits your students may never have seen or tasted. Pomegranate would be a good choice because one pomegranate would provide each child a few seeds to sample. If you have more than one unusual fruit, students can taste test each new fruit to find out how it tastes (sour, sweet, crunchy, squishy, chewy, etc).

We learned last week how God made Adam and Eve and gave them good work to do as king and queen over His creation. This week we will find out about another gift God gave them—choice. God made humans with the freedom to choose to love Him back or not.

Discovery Words

1. The **clever** raccoon kept stealing the farmer's corn.
clever—quick to understand, learn, and devise or apply ideas; intelligent
2. She had to make a **choice** to either keep the puppy or give the puppy away.
choice—an act of selecting or deciding when faced with two or more possibilities.
3. Mikala was sad about the **death** of her grandmother.
death—the end of life; the total and permanent cessation of all the vital functions of an organism
4. Those warm cookies are not for me, but they smell delicious. They are a serious **temptation!**
temptation—a desire to do something, especially something wrong or unwise.
5. We saw a large **serpent** at the zoo.
serpent—a large snake

Memory Verse:

Ephesians 2:10

TUESDAY: God Gives Humans a Choice

Genesis 2:8–17

Discussion

Connect to Prior Learning: Last week we talked about the first two humans on earth.

- What was the name of the first man on earth?
Answer: Adam
- What was the name of the first woman on earth?
Answer: Eve

We read from God’s Word in Genesis 2 last week about the garden.

- Where was the garden God planted for the first humans?
Answer: In Eden

Reading Focus: Today we are going to find out about some of the trees in the garden.

Read Aloud: Genesis 2:8–9

Question for Comprehension:

- What did God plant in the Garden of Eden?
Answer: Every kind of tree

Imagine a garden with every kind of tree! That is some serious variety.

- How were the trees described?
Answer: Pleasing to look at and the fruit was good to eat

Reading Focus: What was so special about two of the trees?

Read Aloud: Genesis 2:9

Question for Comprehension:

- What was special about the first one?
Answer: A tree that let people live forever
- What does it mean to live forever?
Answer: To never die

Think about this—do we have a tree like that on earth today? Can we just hand out fruit from a tree to all the people who are sick in the hospital and once they eat it they will go on living? No! We don’t have a tree like that, but Adam and Eve did.

- What was special about the other tree?
Answer: The other tree had fruit that let people tell the difference between good and evil.
- Do you remember what God said at the end of each day of Creation?
Answer: That it was good.

This tree represents a choice God was giving. Having the choice was part of God’s good creation.

Reading Focus: What did God expect Adam to do in the garden?

Read Aloud: Genesis 2:15

Question for Comprehension: Why did God put Adam in the Garden of Eden?

Answer: To farm the land and take care of it

Reading Focus: What command did God give Adam and Eve about one of the two trees?

Read Aloud: Genesis 2:16–17

Question for Comprehension:

- What was the command?

Answer: You must not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

- What would happen if Adam and Eve ate from the tree?

Answer: They would certainly die.

Until this point—nothing on earth died. The choice God gave Adam and Eve had a consequence. God didn't want them to die, but He was not going to force them to choose life.

Think About It: God gave Adam and Eve (1) their bodies (with the human spirit), (2) their marriage (to a perfect person), (3) their home in a beautiful garden with no weeds and no rainy days, (4) all the food and water they needed, and (5) anything else they needed.

And there was one more gift. God gave them a *choice*. A choice is a decision between different options.

Adam and Eve could choose to obey God, who loved them and provided all they needed, or they could choose to disobey God. Love is a choice. You choose to love someone or not. You can't force that person to love you back. When someone is a bully they *make* you do things their way. But God is not a bully. God is love. God loved Adam and Eve. He created them and provided them with everything. He wanted Adam and Eve to choose to love Him back, but that love had to be their choice.

What we choose shows who we love.

Tomorrow we will learn more about how God gave Adam and Eve the choice to love Him or not.

Hands-On Activity: A Walk in the Garden

Instruct each child to wear a sticky label (or hold a paper) with the name of the kind of fruit tree he/she wants to represent (e.g., apple, pear, cherry, apricot, peach, plum, lemon, pomegranate, grapefruit, orange, coconut, olive, avocado, mango). Have all students stand up like trees. In the middle of the group place an object (a desk or prop) that represents the tree of life and another object that represents the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Ask students to pretend to walk through the garden as if you were Adam or Eve. Discuss how many fruit choices you would be able to enjoy that would also please God. As you approach what you've designated the tree of life ask,

“What will happen if I eat the fruit from this tree?”

Answer: “You will go on living forever.”

Then approach what you have designated as the tree of knowledge of good and evil, ask:

“What will happen if I eat this fruit?”

Answer: “You will die.”

Wrap Up

Ask students to think through what it would be like to live every day with none of the following:

Pain

Frustration

Fear

Shame

Disobedience

Bullying

Cancer

Hurricanes/Earthquakes

Abortions

Broken relationships

Murder

Death

Yes, Adam and Eve lived in a world that did not have evil, but more importantly, they lived in a world that *did* have God.

Also, ask students to imagine what a friendship would be like with someone who was always patient and always kind, someone who never disappointed you and always thought of your needs first. That is what it was like for Adam and Eve to have God for a friend. That is what it can be like for us today to have God for a friend.

Memory Verse:

Ephesians 2:10

WEDNESDAY: The Eternal “Y”

Genesis 3:1–3; Isaiah 14:1–15

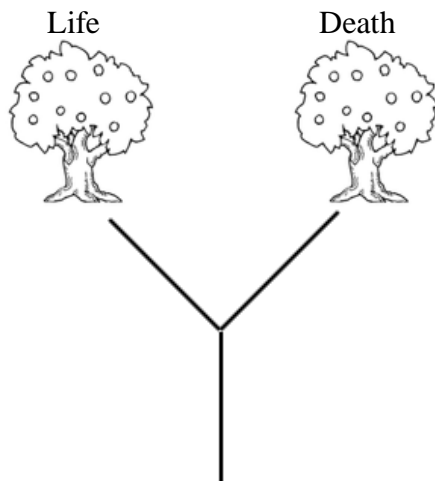
Discussion

Connect to Prior Learning:

- Do you remember the sentence I mentioned yesterday about what we choose? What we _____ shows who we _____.
Answer: What we *choose* shows who we *love*.
- What did God plant in the middle of the garden?
Answer: Two Trees
- What was one of those trees?
Answer: Tree of Life
- What was the other tree?
Answer: The tree that let people tell the difference between good and evil.
- Which tree did God tell Adam and Eve *not* to eat?
Answer: The tree that would let them know the difference between good and evil.
- What would happen if they did eat from that tree?
Answer: They would die.

Picture this—we have two trees. One that leads to *life* and one that leads to *death*.

(Draw this diagram on a large white board.)



Adam and Eve had a choice to make.

Would they [walk over to the “life” side of the board] chose to show love for the God who created them and cared for them by obeying what He wanted?

If they did that, they could stay in the garden and keep eating the fruit from the tree of life and go on living in a world where no one felt pain, no one was poor or hungry, no one died.

OR [walk over to the “death” side] would they chose to show love for themselves and choose a tree that would help them know good and evil?

Let’s find out what God’s Word tells us happened next.

Reading Focus: Who else was in the garden?

Read Aloud: Genesis 3:1a

Question for Comprehension:

- What is a serpent?

Answer: Snake

This was no ordinary snake. This was God’s enemy, Satan, taking the form of a snake.

Satan is an angel that was created by God. Satan had decided to turn on God and be God’s enemy.

- What does it mean to be clever?

Answer: Quick to understand, learn, and devise or apply ideas; intelligent

This next part is really amazing.

Read Aloud: Genesis 3:1b

Wow! This is no ordinary snake. This is a snake that can talk to Eve.

Most of us run when we see a snake. That’s because we are used to poisonous snakes. Remember, Adam and Eve had never seen anything that was poisonous or harmful. At this time on earth, bees didn’t sting, snakes didn’t bite, and lions didn’t eat people. The Bible doesn’t tell us what Eve thought about this talking snake. We just know they carried on a dialogue.

Reading Focus: What question did the snake ask Eve?

Read Aloud: Genesis 3:1

Think about what Satan was asking: “God spoke to you? Really? Was it really God who said that? Was that really what God said?”

Question for Comprehension: Now, did God say, “You must not eat fruit from *any* tree in the garden”?

Answer: No!

Satan was way off! Adam and Eve had hundreds of trees they could freely eat from.

Reading Focus: How did Eve answer the snake?

Read Aloud: Genesis 3:2–3

The verses we read from God’s Word didn’t say anything about not *touching* the fruit of the tree that would let them know good and evil, but it certainly would be a good idea to stay far away from a tree that would lead to death.

Remember, they were in a perfect garden where nothing ever died, not an animal or human. Even though we are hearing dialogue between Eve and the serpent, we will find out later that Adam was right there with Eve. He just wasn’t talking. Tomorrow we will find out what happened next.

Review Activity: Retelling

Ask your students to retell the events of Adam and Eve's story as if they were a bird in a tree watching things unfold. This activity can be done in writing for older students.

Wrap Up

Until now we have known only about God and what God created. Satan was created by God as an angel. The part we read about Creation did not tell us about when the angels were created. Like all things God created, angels were good, but they had the choice to follow God or not. Satan was originally named Lucifer. He was the top angel over all the other angels until he decided he wanted to be like God, the Creator (Isaiah 14:12–15).

The conflict is *not* God versus Satan as though they are side by side in a fight. The conflict is that Satan, who is a created being and utterly beneath God, is fighting against God, who is forever infinitely higher, bigger, stronger, and more capable than Satan. Since Satan cannot defeat God, he fights against those God loves. Satan tries to take us as hostages to sin.

The conflict is real because Satan is at war with God, but it's not a fair fight. Satan is clever, but cleverness is no match for God, who is all powerful, all knowing, and everywhere at once.

Memory Verse:

Ephesians 2:10

THURSDAY: The Big Lie

Genesis 3:4–6; Joshua 5:13–15

Discussion

Connect to Prior Learning:

- Do you remember where we left Adam and Eve yesterday?
Answer: By the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- Who was with Adam and Eve by that tree?
Answer: The talking snake
- What did the snake want to know?
Answer: If they could eat from *any* of the trees
- What did Eve tell the snake?
Answer: That they could eat from all of them, just not the one in the middle that would let them know good from evil. (She also said they couldn't touch it.)

Reading Focus: What did Satan say next?

Read Aloud: Genesis 3:4

That is a lie! God, who created them and cannot lie, told them they would die. Satan is calling God is a liar.

Reading Focus: What else did the snake say about God?

Read Aloud: Genesis 3:5

Question for Comprehension: Did Adam and Eve already know good?

Answer: Yes. Everything God created was good. God Himself was good. Everything they saw, felt, touched, smelled, tasted and believed in was all good.

For Adam and Eve to tell the difference between good and evil, there would have to be evil. They already knew good. Satan was telling them they could know *more* because they could know evil.

Until now God was ruling over everything and Adam and Eve were ruling over the garden and animals. The snake tells them that they can be like God—knowing things that God knows.

Adam and Eve were made in God's image so in many ways they were already like God. Yet, as humans created by God, they were under God's authority. To get Adam and Eve to disobey God, Satan wants them to think about how important they are.

God is the One who made Adam and Eve. God is the One with the wisdom to make the universe and everything in it. God loved Adam and Eve and gave them everything they needed. They didn't need to know about evil.

Satan is deceptive: he makes it sound like knowing good and evil would be desirable.

Reading Focus: What does Eve do next?

Week 5: Teacher's Notes

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Read Aloud: Genesis 3:6

Question for Comprehension:

- What is Eve looking at?
Answer: The fruit of the tree God commanded her not to eat
- What is Eve thinking about?
Answer: The benefit of eating that fruit

The fruit looked good to Eve’s eyes. She thought that the fruit would taste good in her mouth. She wanted the fruit to give her knowledge of evil.

- Who is Eve thinking about?
Answer: Herself

Who we think about shows who we love.

Satan had called God a liar, and Eve doesn’t even seem to notice. At this point what she cares about seems to be herself—not Adam, not God, not God’s Word (what God had told them). Adam and Eve are right at the fork in the road—the Eternal “Y”. Will they love God and obey His Word? Or will they love themselves and buy into the lie that God is not enough for them and that God is not doing enough for them.

Do you think Adam and Eve will chose to love and obey God? Or do you think they will make the choice to believe Satan’s lie? Come back next week to find out about their choice and about the consequences of their choice.

Hands-On Activity

(Note: Teachers whose students are small children can act out this demonstration. Other teachers may want to ask a small child to act out this demonstration. It’s a powerful visual.)

Pick a child who will cooperate well with you in a demonstration. Explain to the child what you want them to do in advance.

When you do this demonstration, ask the child to come up beside you. Explain to the class that, in this pretend activity, this child decides that he or she wants to fight you. The problem for the student is, you are bigger and stronger.

Put your hand on the head of the child to hold him or her at arms’ length. Then have the child pretend to punch towards you as if he or she were going to hit you. Of course, the child can’t reach you so the attempt just ends up looking silly.

Remind your students that this visual is only a tiny glimpse of how silly it is when Satan tries to fight against God. It would be more realistic if you were holding a tiny gnat at bay while the gnat tried to attack you. (Even this illustration falls short because you didn’t create the gnat.)

God is infinitely greater than anything else. We call this His transcendence. How amazing is it that such a magnificent God chooses to love us!

Wrap Up

God created Satan as Lucifer. Satan was the top angel, but he turned traitor. Angels are not little fluffy characters with wings. Angels, while usually invisible to us, are powerful messengers who were created by God and operate as His army (Joshua 5:13-15).

[For more information about angels, follow this link: [When Were the Angels Created?](#)]

When Lucifer decided he would rebel against God by trying to take over God's roll as the One in charge, Lucifer was thrown out of the company of God's angels (Isaiah 14:12-15). God is more than ten million times stronger, wiser, more capable in every way.

Also, Satan fights with lies and hate while God fights with truth and love. Truth and love are much stronger weapons (much like light is a stronger weapon than darkness).

Satan can't fight God directly, so Satan tries to get to God by attacking those who are God's representatives. Remember what God said when He made Adam and Eve? "Let us make human beings so that they are like us" (Genesis 1:26).

Not only are humans made in God's image (we look like Him), but humans are also the ones God loves. Satan was attacking God by lying to Adam and Eve about God. He was trying to drive a wedge between God and the people God loved.

Here's hope: All of us face the reality that bad things happen to us. Everything bad that comes our way is not Satan attacking us, but even if Satan were to personally try to attack any one of us, Satan is no match for God. The forces of wrong may seem strong, but God is bigger. God is stronger. God is more loving. And God rules. He is in charge.

[*Note to Teacher:* You will notice that tomorrow's quiz has an optional word bank for the short answer section. You may make this list available to the students to use to take the quiz if you believe they need it to be successful.]

Memory Verse:

Ephesians 2:10

FRIDAY: Show What You Know (KEY)

Short Answer: Complete each statement by writing the answer in the blank provided.

- 1-2. God made **Adam** and **Eve** to be the rulers over the land, birds, and animals.
- 3-5. God said not to eat of the Tree of the **Knowledge** of **good** and **evil**.
6. The type of animal that Satan used to tempt the humans to disobey God was
a **snake (or serpent)**.
- 7-8. The woman noticed the fruit was pleasing to **look** at and good to **eat**.
9. What we choose shows what we **love**.
10. **Adam (the Man)** was beside the woman when she was tricked.

Multiple Choice: Choose the letter that best answer the question or completes the statement.

 D 11. How was the woman tricked?

- A. She was tricked into thinking God was keeping something good away from her
- B. She was told the lie that she would not die
- C. She was made to doubt what God had said
- D. All of the above

 A 12. Before the first humans disobeyed God, they lived in a world without

- A. fear and shame.
- B. water and sand.
- C. sun and moon.

Essay: Write your answer to the question on the lines provided.

13-16. List at least four things God gave to the humans he created.

 Any item from creation, a spouse, work, a day of rest, freedom of choice

17. Why did God give the first humans a choice to obey or disobey?

 He wanted them to choose to love him. (Without choice, they would not have been fully human.)

FRIDAY: Show What You Know (Optional Word Bank)

Words may be used more than once.

Adam

eat

evil

Eve

good

knowledge

look

love

snake