



## FAMILIES FORMING DISCIPLES

A FAMILY-FOCUSED APPROACH TO FAITH FORMATION

### CALLED TO LOVE: THE ADVENTURE OF LIFE IN CHRIST

#### TOPIC: What Happens When We Live Outside of God's Order?

##### SACRED SCRIPTURE

GEN 3-4, JN 3:16-17,  
ROM 5:8

#### REFERENCES:

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH  
no. 397

CREED	LITURGY	LIFE	PRAYER
nos.	nos.	nos.	nos.
374-421, 598-623	1213, 1262-64, 1394-95, 1420-1532	1846-76, 2515-16	2725-45, 2838-54

#### TOPICS

- Human Dignity, Freedom & Responsibility
- Adam's Priesthood
- Created Male and Female in God's Image
- Called to Love; How Do We Live in God's Love for Us?

#### GOAL(S):

- Families will read and discuss Genesis 3.
- Families will learn and share about what happens when we live outside of God's order of love for us.
- Families will reflect and share about big and small ways that they show one another sacrificial love.

#### OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, we entrust our family to You and ask for Your blessing and protection. We love You Lord Jesus with all our hearts and we ask that You help our family become more like the Holy Family. Help us to be kind, loving, and patient with one another. Give us all the grace we need to become saints and Your faithful disciples. Amen.

#### ICE BREAKER

*Keep it up!*

1. Give each person a small piece of paper and have them write one unique fun fact about themselves (no names!).
2. Fold them up and slip each into an uninflated balloon, then blow up the balloons.
3. Simultaneously, toss the balloons in the air and try to keep them from touching the ground for 60 seconds, so the balloons are mixed up.
4. Afterwards, each person grabs a balloon of a different color than the one he/she started with.
5. Everyone takes turns popping the balloons and reading the statements out loud.
6. The family members guess who the statement describes.



# MATERIALS

- Bibles
- [Bible Craft for Kids: Hope Despite the Fall](#) - Genesis 3
- Large purple & gray construction paper, glue sticks, markers, scissors

# CONTENT

## Review:

The last time we were together we talked about God's children, Adam and Eve, and the home He made for them to live. Adam was the fully human son of God and high priest of that holy place called the Garden of Eden (see Lk 3:38). It was his job as high priest to till the soil, to help it to grow and to protect it, so everything and everyone in the garden would thrive according to God's will.

## Hook:

Ask: Does anyone remember how many trees were in the middle of the Garden of Eden?



# TEACH

Answer: Two

Ask: What are the names of those two trees?

Answer: The Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

Ask: Which tree did God warn Adam and Eve not to eat from or they would die?

Answer: The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

Read Genesis chap. 2, vss. 16 & 17: “The Lord God gave man this order: ‘You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. From that tree you shall not eat; the moment you eat from it you are surely doomed to die.’”

Invite families to open their bibles to Genesis 3.

**Introduce the topic:** Out of love, God warned Adam not to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, because if he did, eventually Adam would die. God didn't want Adam to die; He wanted him to live forever, which is why God also gave Adam the Tree of Life, from which he could eat and live forever. All Adam was asked to do was to trust that God loved him, and because He loved him, God was only telling Adam what was truly best for him. This would mean that Adam was called to live as a child of God, by living the order of love that God had created to bring Adam happiness. This is the same choice God gives to each one of His children; we can choose to live as a child of God, living in God's order of love, which is God's will, or not to live as a child of God. It is our choice because love must be a choice of our free will for it to be real.

**Read:** [Genesis 3:1-5](#)

**Explain:** The serpent is Satan, the fallen angel who wants to destroy God. He is also called the father of lies. Here we read that the father of lies set out to destroy Adam and Eve. Satan hated them, because he saw their great dignity of being God's very own children, made in His image. Since Satan hates God, he wants to destroy anyone who is made in God's image. So the serpent told Eve that it was God who was lying to her. She began to doubt God's love for her and to forget that at her very core, she was a child of God created with great dignity. She didn't understand that God had not lied to her because He cannot lie. In fact, God does not just always *tell* the truth; *God is Truth!*

**Read:** [Genesis 3:6-8](#)

**Explain:** As we said before, out of love God had warned Adam not to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. When Adam and Eve ate from that tree, they were foolishly saying, *being a child of God is not good enough for us*, and they rejected God's order of love, or what we call God's will for them. They said, *God does not decide what is good and what is evil, we do.*

This happens a lot. Think of your own families. Parents who love their children may warn them not to do things that are bad, because in the end, there will be terrible consequences that will bring them suffering, yet children sometimes still disobey. When that happens, their children are basically saying, *we, not our parents, will decide what is good and what is evil.* We all have done this at one time or another, because we have all sinned. We often forget that at our very core each of us is a cherished child of God, created in His image with great dignity and love and redeemed by Jesus Christ. Sometimes, like Adam and Eve, we learn the hard way that we are children, and it is only God who defines what is good and what is evil.

**Read:** [Genesis 3:8-20](#)

**Explain:** When Adam and Eve ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, everything changed. By deciding for themselves what is good and evil, they purposefully moved away from God their Father. By choosing to move away, it was clear that they did not know the meaning of family. When given the choice they had chosen to be full of pride and to disobey the Lord. They thought choosing humility and love was weakness because they did not know the strength of sacrificial love. So, God gave them "punishments"—consequences of their sin—which were actual ways to help them to learn to sacrifice out of love for one another.

First Eve would learn how to sacrifice out of love for her children, and care for them and her husband. Then Adam would learn how to sacrifice out of love by persevering through many difficulties to provide for and protect his family. These challenges would make it necessary for Adam, Eve and their children to turn to God again and again for help to survive and thrive. Through this, they would learn to have childlike faith in God's love for them. From now on, this would be the way for families to learn to love, by sacrificing for one another.

**Read:** [Genesis 3:21-24](#)

# CONTENT CONTINUED:

**Explain:** Adam and Eve and all of creation were different after they had chosen to sin. Because sin is our way of rejecting God, there was now a distance between Him and His children.

God had to move Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden and place an angel with a sword to make sure they could not eat from the Tree of Life. If they ate from that tree, they would remain forever in their sinful state, and they could not be reunited with God as true children and live in paradise as one family. God wants all of us to be fully healed of our sins so we can live with Him in Heaven forever. But God had a beautiful way to rescue us!

For proof of this we only have to re-read **Genesis 3:15**:

When God says, “**I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel**,” it sounds as if the woman God is talking about is Eve. He is, but not only about this Eve. He is also speaking about the New Eve—Mary, our spiritual mother.

We are the children of Adam and Eve, and because of that we have inherited their Original Sin. So, we do not have the gifts that they first had in the garden.

But not to worry, because God has a plan. In **Genesis 3:15**, referring to the offspring of the woman, the Lord says, “**he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel**.” Often in Catholic Churches we find statues of the Virgin Mary standing on top of the world with a serpent under her heel. Those statues are teaching about God’s promise to save us from sin in **Genesis 3:15**.

The Church from early times has called this verse the first announcement of the Gospel (the *protoevangelion* in Greek or *protoevangelium* in Latin – first Gospel).

**(Note to catechists:** There are various translations handed down through history that have influenced the interpretation of this passage. Some Church Fathers related it directly to Jesus, the offspring of the New Eve, who crushes the head of Satan. Others related it to Mary who crushes the serpent’s head. Still others refer to the offspring as “they”—the Church—who crush the serpent’s head through the grace of Jesus. Each of these is worthy of contemplation and find their unity in Christ our redeemer, the New Adam, and Mary as the New Eve and Mother of the redeemed. See CCC, nos. 410-11.)

**Ask:** Who is Mary’s offspring, the One that defeats Satan through His Sacrifice?

**Answer:** Jesus! Jesus’ sacrifice of love, as He laid down his life in payment for our sins, is the way that Satan would be ultimately defeated.

**Explain:** **Genesis 3:15** is God’s promise that even though sin has entered the world, God will send us a Savior.

**Read:** **Genesis 3:16-21**

**Ask:** Is there anything in these verses that show that God still loved Adam and Eve?

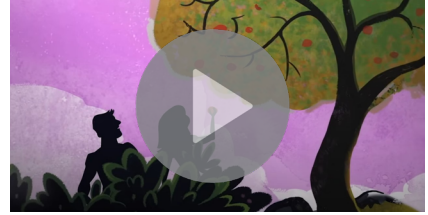
**Answer:** God clothed them.

**Explain:** God still loved Adam and Eve and would care for them, but it was now clear that they did not know how to truly love. They needed to learn about true, sacrificial love. When Adam and Eve sinned, they received what looked like “punishments.” Yet these “punishments” are important ways that God will teach Adam and Eve how to truly love.

# CONTENT CONTINUED:

Therefore, this is not the end of the story. It is just the beginning! The Holy Trinity, our first Family, would send one of the three Persons, God the Son, to come to earth to rescue us! He, *the Son of God*, would become a man, a second Adam. It would entail that Jesus, the only one who is fully human and fully divine—*true God and true man*—would rescue and save us from our sins.

Watch: The Gospel Project for Kids: Sin Entered the World  
(3 min)



## FAMILY CONVERSATION/ACTIVITY

What happens when we live outside of God's order of love for us?  
What are some big ways that the members of your family show one another sacrificial love?  
What are some small ways that your family shows one another sacrificial love?

[Bible Crafts for Kids: Hope Despite the Fall](#) - Genesis 3

Materials - Large purple & gray construction paper, glue sticks, markers, scissors

## MISSION ACTIVITY

### 1 First, Introduce Mission Activity

Mission Activities are to be done at home during Week 2 and to be shared at the gathering of families on Week 3.

### 2 Second, Explain Activity

Your Family At-Home Mission is to:

- i. As a family together watch the videos.
- ii. Every time we receive the Eucharist, we are giving thanks to God! Give each person in your family a piece of blank paper and encourage them to make a list of all the things for which he/she is thankful. Younger children can draw pictures.
- iii. Gather around your home altar as a family and share your lists with each other. Then say a prayer thanking God for all the beautiful gifts He has given to your family!
- iv. Bring your lists to the next *Families Forming Disciples* gathering!
- v. Advent is around the corner! That means it is time to make your Family Advent Plan!
- vi. View the resources and be prepared to share about your *Family Advent Plan* at the next *Families Forming Disciples* gathering!

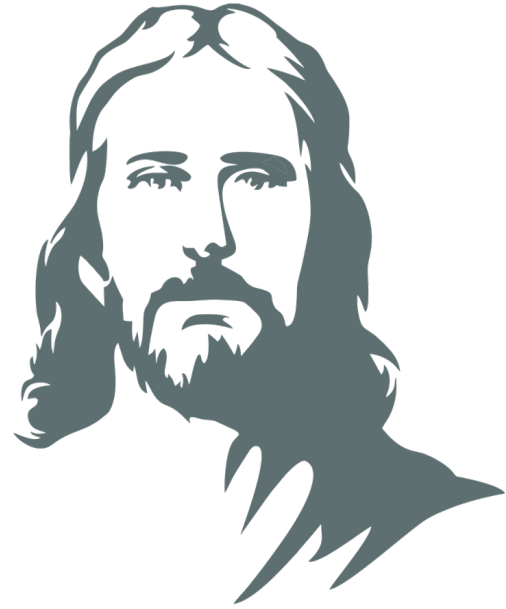
### 3 Last, Share Your Experience!

Share you list of the things for which you are thankful, as well as your own Family Advent Plan.



## 6. REVIEW & CLOSE IN PRAYER

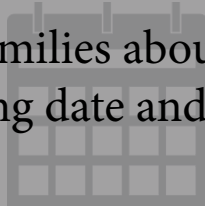
Jesus,  
We believe You are the Son of God, that You died on the cross to rescue us from sin and death and to restore us to the Father. We choose now to turn from our sins, our self-centeredness, and every part of our lives that does not please You. We choose You. We give ourselves to You. We ask for Your forgiveness and desire for You to take Your rightful place in our lives as our Lord and Savior. Come reign in our hearts, fill us with Your love and Your life, and help us to become truly loving children of God. In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.



Adapted from [www.wildatheart.org](http://www.wildatheart.org)

### REMIND

Remind families about the next meeting date and time.



## SUPPORTING QUOTES FROM CHURCH DOCUMENTS

*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, nos. 418:

As a result of original sin, human nature is weakened in its powers, subject to ignorance, suffering and the domination of death, and inclined to sin (this inclination is called “concupiscence”).

**Second Vatican Council, Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes* (1965), no. 13:**

Although he was made by God in a state of holiness, from the very onset of his history man abused his liberty, at the urging of the Evil One. Man set himself against God and sought to attain his goal apart from God. Although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, but their senseless minds were darkened and they served the creature rather than the Creator. What divine revelation makes known to us agrees with experience. Examining his heart, man finds that he has inclinations toward evil too, and is engulfed by manifold ills which cannot come from his good Creator. Often refusing to acknowledge God as his beginning, man has disrupted also his proper relationship [Latin: *ordinem* – order] to his own ultimate goal as well as his whole relationship [Latin: *ordinationem*] toward himself and others and all created things.

***Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, no. 116:***

*At the root of personal and social divisions, which in differing degrees offend the value and dignity of the human person, there is a wound which is present in man's inmost self. "In the light of faith we call it sin: beginning with original sin, which all of us bear from birth as an inheritance from our first parents, to the sin which each one of us commits when we abuse our own freedom." The consequences of sin, insofar as it is an act of separation from God, are alienation, that is, the separation of man not only from God but also from himself, from other men and from the world around him. "Man's rupture with God leads tragically to divisions between brothers. In the description of the 'first sin', the rupture with [the Lord] simultaneously breaks the bond of friendship that had united the human family. Thus the subsequent pages of Genesis show us the man and the woman as it were pointing an accusing finger at each other (cf. Gen. 3:12). Later we have brother hating brother and finally taking his brother's life (cf. Gen 4:2-16).*

