

The Garden Of Eden

Genesis 2:8-17

MEMORY VERSE

GENESIS 2:8

"The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

White, yellow, and brown construction paper, tissue paper of colors suitable for use as leaves, glue and markers.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

"If I Created Paradise"

Ask the class what things they would have included in Paradise and write them on the board. Even if their suggestions are silly (like, "I'd put Burger King there"), write it down. You can refer to their list as you teach on what the Perfect Creator placed in His garden. How is God's creation different from our lists? Does God know what we need and what is best for us? Can we trust Him to provide for us all we need?

LESSON TIME!

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about the Garden of Eden. Most everyone has heard of the Garden of Eden. It was a special place created by God for all of His creatures as well as the first man and woman, Adam and Eve. It was a very beautiful garden and a place different from any place today. It was a place of blessing that the Lord made special for His people. In our lesson today, we will see how **God desires to bless His people**. That has always been His plan; but, as we will see over the next couple of weeks, sin separates us from God and from His blessing in our lives.

Let's learn more about the Garden of Eden and God's heart toward Adam and Eve and each one of us.

GENESIS 2:8-9

The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.

And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Here we see the Creator God providing a home for Adam. God Himself planted the garden. One of the first lessons we can learn from the Garden of Eden is that God desires to provide for His people. He knew that Adam and Eve would need a place to live, so He provided for them. God knows our needs and He will help us in our times of need as well.

The garden was named Eden meaning, “delight.” Adam's home was not something made by man. It was not a mansion or a palace designed and decorated by man. For a ceiling, Adam had the heavens and the stars to gaze upon; he had the beauty of the plants and trees to surround him, for we see that every tree was pleasant (beautiful, delightful) to the sight.

God's provision for man is wondrous. In a previous lesson, we learned that God created plant life and that it was “good” (Genesis 1:11-12); yet we see God planting for Adam something even more wondrous and beautiful beyond description. And, it was plenteous for food. Our God always provides for us all that we need.

We also see in verse 8 that God put "the man whom He had formed" into the garden. God had lovingly formed man out of the dust of the common ground. Then God placed Adam into the garden. This speaks of God's grace, giving so freely His provision to all of us.

There were two trees spoken of specifically in the midst of the garden: the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. They were named, perhaps, because of their significance to man--that is to say, because of the effect the eating of their fruit was destined to produce on human life and its development. The tree of life was a sign and seal to Adam, assuring him of the continuance of life and happiness if he would continue to obey God. Of this tree, he could eat and live. We will talk about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil later when we get to verse 17.

GENESIS 2:10-14

Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads.

The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one which encompasses the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.

And the gold of that land is good. Bdellium and the onyx stone are there.

The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one which encompasses the whole land of Cush.

The name of the third river is Hiddekel; it is the one which goes toward the east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.

Here we see that a river went out of Eden to water the garden. We are not given the name of this river, but we are told that it did water the garden. From this river came four other rivers, flowing into other lands. God took care of the garden—it wanted for nothing. The lands that the four rivers ran through are described

as being full of treasures: gold, bdellium (some define it as a "fragrant gum", others as a "pearl"), and onyx. There were all these material riches, yet the spiritual riches of fellowship with the Father were even more precious.

GENESIS 2:15

Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

The word "put" in the original is "caused him to rest" or "dwell in the garden as an abode of peace and recreation." He was put there not to just play, but also to "tend" ("dress" KJV) the garden. The garden was not a place of exemption from work. The garden did not need to be weeded, for weeds and thorns were absent as sin had not yet entered the world, but it needed care. Wherever the Lord places us, we are to be tending to His business.

GENESIS 2:16-17

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;

but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

In verse 16, we have the first of the eight covenants: the Edenic Covenant. A covenant is like an agreement. God told man that He wanted to bless Him—**God desires to bless His people**—but man had certain responsibilities. Under this covenant Adam was to:

- 1) Propagate the race.
- 2) Subdue the earth for man
- 3) Have dominion over the animal creation.
- 4) Care for the garden and eat its fruits and herbs.
- 5) Not eat of one tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, on penalty of death for disobedience.

We see here that God gave Adam instruction. He shared with Adam what He wanted him to do. God also gives us instruction and direction for our lives. He gives us His Word to help us to know His will for our lives. Where would we be without His direction? The command was for Adam's good and vital for his life. He could eat freely of any tree, except one. If he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he could no longer eat of the tree of life.

Good and Evil Game

Divide the room in half and tell the children the one side represents a good (obedient) decision for us, the other a wrong (disobedient) decision. Name things like #1) cheating on a test and #2) helping our mom.

As you name each one, tell the class to go to the side it represents. Do this a few times so the children can plainly see that there is a choice of obedience and disobedience. Explain that every day we make choices. We can obey or disobey. Adam and Eve had the same choice in their lives. Obedience would bring blessing and disobedience would bring death. God allows man free choice.

The second tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, was also in the midst of the garden. It was also pleasant to the eyes and a tree to be desired. This tree represented knowledge that God alone had—the awareness of evil. Man was created in innocence, not knowing disobedience. If he took of the fruit, he would disobey God (sin), bringing death upon himself.

In next week's lesson, we will learn the choice that Adam made and what happened as a result. We will also see that God knew what would happen, and He had everything under control. He had a way to help Adam and all of mankind.

God wants to bless us. He wants to provide for all of our needs. He wants to give us direction and instructions on how to live our lives. He also wants to have a relationship with us. He will bless us when we obey Him.

Sadly, sin has entered into the world, as we will see in chapter 3. Through the disobedience of one man, Adam, we were made sinners; but, through the obedience of one Man, Jesus Christ, we were made righteous (Romans 5:19). Adam brought sin into the world by eating the fruit of the forbidden *tree*. Jesus made us righteous by taking our punishment at Calvary upon a *tree*. Two trees—one brought death to mankind; another tree would bring life. As God warned Adam, so He warns man. Obey His Word and live, or disobey His Word and die. What choice will we make? **God desires to bless His people.**

Picture of the Tree and the Cross

For this craft you will need white, yellow, and brown construction paper, green tissue paper, glue and markers. Give each child a white or yellow piece of construction paper. From brown construction paper, have the children cut out a tree trunk. Glue the tree trunk onto their piece of construction paper. Using the tissue paper, crumple up small pieces and glue onto the tree for leaves.

Next, have the children cut out a brown cross and glue it next to the tree. Ask the children to write Romans 5:19 on their picture and then color and decorate it as they wish.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of obedience to God's Word. If any children have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them an opportunity to do so.