

## Lesson

# 9

## Adam and Eve disobeyed God.

### Overview

1. Introduction
2. In order to destroy Adam and Eve's relationship with God, Satan disguised himself. (Genesis 3:1; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15)
3. Satan tempted and deceived Eve. (Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1-5)
4. Eve ate the fruit and also gave some to Adam. (Genesis 3:6)
5. When Adam and Eve sinned, they were immediately separated from God. (Genesis 3:7-8; Romans 6:23)
6. Adam and Eve's attitudes and actions showed that they were now separated from God. (Genesis 3:7-8; 1 Samuel 16:7)
7. Adam and Eve were afraid of God. (Psalm 139:1-12; Jeremiah 23:23-24)
8. Conclusion

### Teacher tip

You should teach everything in this lesson except the content in the gray boxes.

This is one of the longer lessons in this series, but **do not pick and choose** which points to teach because of time constraint. Each point is a building block and is important to laying a solid foundation for your students to understand truth. If you do not think you can cover all of the material in one session, divide it into two lessons.

### 1. Introduction

- **We will begin by looking back at what we have already learned.**

**Teacher:** Review the previous lesson by asking your students the following questions. The expected answer follows each question, indented and in italics.

- ❓ What position did God give Lucifer, the most beautiful and intelligent angel?

*One of great authority and power over the other angels.*

- ❓ When Lucifer rebelled against God, what did he want to do?

*To be like God and take over His throne.*

❓ Who else followed Satan in rebelling against God?

*Many of God's angels.*

❓ Why couldn't this rebellion threaten God's position in any way?

*Because He is supreme. God is the only One who is all-knowing and all-powerful.*

❓ What does "Satan" mean?

*Enemy, adversary, opponent.*

❓ Who does Satan fight against?

*God and mankind.*

• **We will now look forward to the main truth to be considered in this lesson.**

Satan sinned against his Creator, and God banned him from his former position. But Satan wasn't sorry for what he'd done. Instead, he went forth in seething hatred to try to "get back at" God. In this lesson, we will see what lengths he went to, and what God did about it.

• **What we are about to study relates to one of the most critical events in history.**

In order to understand this lesson, we need to remember the original instructions and warning that God gave to Adam when He put him in the Garden of Eden.

**Teacher:** Anytime you see the question icon, as below, ask your students the question(s) that follows it and pause for them to respond. Sometimes more than one answer is correct, but occasionally there is only one correct answer. Whatever the case, if the students do not respond with the answer provided in italics, you should teach it.

❓ What two trees did God mention by name that He had planted in the center of the garden?

*The "Tree of Life" and the "Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil."*

❓ What did God say would happen to Adam if he ate fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil?

*He would die.*

❓ What did God mean when He said that Adam would die?

- *He would be separated from having a spiritual relationship with God (spiritual death).*
- *He would die physically when his soul and spirit left his body (physical death).*
- *After physical death, he would be separated from God forever (eternal death).*

## 2. In order to destroy Adam and Eve's relationship with God, Satan disguised himself.

- **Life in the garden was pleasant for Adam and Eve.**

God had placed everything in the garden that they needed. They had a vast variety of fruits and vegetables to eat. They were able to enjoy the beauty of the environment they lived in.

Most importantly, they enjoyed a perfect relationship with one another and with God.

**Teacher:** Show Supplemental Visual 9.



But God's great enemy did not intend to allow them to enjoy this ideal situation.

- **Satan wanted to destroy Adam and Eve.**

Because Satan was God's opponent, he wanted to destroy the man and woman whom God loved and had blessed.

Satan had seen God create man. He had witnessed God appoint Adam and Eve as managers over the earth. Later, he witnessed God's care for them when He provided them with all they needed in the Garden of Eden.

Satan was also aware of God's warning to Adam that they would die if they ate the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Because of his hatred for God, Satan wanted Adam and Eve to die.

- **Satan disguised himself so he could deceive Eve.**

**Teacher:** Anytime you see the open Bible icon with the words "Read [Scripture]," as below, invite a student to read that passage aloud.



Read Genesis 3:1.

This wasn't just a snake talking to Eve; Satan disguised himself so he could deceive Eve. He chose to speak through the serpent because it was more clever

and crafty than any other animal created by God. No doubt, Satan thought that Eve would most likely be impressed by this particular creature.

She was unaware that God's enemy, Satan, was talking to her.

- **Satan still deceives people.**

Satan's intentions have not changed at all. He is still trying to destroy man. In this day and age, he doesn't disguise himself as a serpent, but he certainly has many other cunning ways of deceiving people.

Remember that Satan can only be in one place at a time. But his demons work with him to fight against God and man. So when we talk about Satan deceiving people, it may be Satan himself or Satan using his evil spirits to do so.

- **Satan misleads people by speaking lies and putting doubts directly into their minds.**

He does not let people know he is the one speaking to them. They think that the ideas they have are their own, but all the while, it is really Satan who is putting them there.

For example: Even when you are listening to God's Word, Satan might suggest a thought to you, such as, "The Bible is just an old book and may not even be true. Why should I believe it?"

- **Satan uses other people as his mouthpiece to tell his lies.**

Someone may say: "Why are you studying the Bible? It is full of contradictions and it's not consistent with modern science." These people may knowingly follow Satan, or they may have been tricked by him.

Satan will often use people who appear to be intellectual to speak on his behalf, and sometimes even those who claim to be Christians. In spite of what they profess to be, they are being used by Satan when they cause people to doubt whether the Bible can be trusted.



Read 2 Corinthians 11:13-15.

- **Satan uses people's pride to make them turn away from the truth.**

Satan wants us to think we are self-sufficient and wiser than God and what the Bible says. Satan has turned many people away from the truth by convincing them that, because they are intelligent, their own ideas about God and what happens after death are more dependable than what the Bible teaches.

- **Satan traps people everywhere by causing them to believe lies.**

He does not want anyone to believe what God says. He certainly doesn't want you to believe God's Word. So beware, for he will try to deceive you just as he did Eve. Satan is clever and able to disguise himself in such a way that you may be quite unaware you are being deceived by his lies.

Teacher: To illustrate Satan's evil intentions, read the following story about one who was deceived and destroyed by his enemy.

I want to read an imaginary story that has an important meaning for every one of us:

There was a successful businessman who had everything he needed. However he had an enemy who hated him and planned to destroy him.

One night, this enemy hid, waiting near the businessman's house. When the businessman came home, his enemy attacked him and deliberately blinded him. As a result, he could no longer work or enjoy his possessions. After a time, he was poverty stricken.

One day, after enduring this situation for a long time, he was sitting on the porch of his house which by this time had become old and unstable. While sitting there, he heard a voice calling him, "Friend." At first he was afraid and wondered who it could be. He didn't answer immediately, but when the person repeatedly called him, "Friend," he answered and invited the caller to sit down.

The visitor appeared concerned for the blind man and offered to help him. On his following visits, he brought food and gifts and spoke kindly to the former businessman and helped him in various ways. As this man continued to visit, the blind man became more and more dependent on him and, finally, came to trust his visitor, believing him to be a true friend.

One day, when the visitor knew he had the blind man's complete confidence, he suggested they go out for a walk together. He spoke in such a gentle, friendly manner that the blind man stepped out of his house and grasped his hand, completely trusting him to be his guide.

The visitor led him along a path, talking pleasantly all the while and describing everything they were passing. Suddenly, without any warning, the man pulled his hand away, and as the blind man stumbled forward, he felt nothing beneath his feet. As he fell, he heard laughter and jeering above him and recognized only too late that it was the familiar laughter of his enemy, the one who had blinded him.

? How is this story similar to what Satan did to Adam and Eve and has been doing to the majority of people throughout the history of the world?

*Satan has blinded people's minds and deceived them so they cannot, of themselves, know and understand God. Satan is glad when people refuse to listen to God's Word because he wants everyone to remain under his control, and eventually, to be destroyed.*

**Verification verses for teacher only:** Ephesians 4:17-18  
2 Corinthians 4:3-4

### 3. Satan tempted and deceived Eve.



Read Genesis 3:1 again.

- **Let's consider why Satan asked Eve this question.**

❓ Why do you think he asked her this question, seeing he already knew the correct answer?

*To have her doubt what God had said.*

Casting doubt on God's Word is still one of Satan's favorite tactics.

- **Satan succeeded in confusing Eve.**



Read Genesis 3:2-3.

When she replied to his question, she added to what God had said. He had not told them that they couldn't **touch** the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. He had said they were not to **eat** the fruit.



Read Genesis 2:16-17.

- **God gave this command to Adam.**

Even though God did not give this command directly to Eve, the command was for her to obey too. Whatever God said to Adam was also for Eve.

And likewise, God's message in the Bible, even though given so many years ago, is still His message to us today.



Read Genesis 3:4-5.

- **Satan said the opposite from what God had told Adam.**

God had said that Adam **would** die if he disobeyed God's command, but Satan said that Adam would **not** die.

❓ By contradicting what God had said, what was Satan implying?

*That God was a liar.*

- **Satan was lying in order to deceive Eve into thinking she and Adam would benefit if they chose to be independent of God.**

Satan wanted them to be so driven by self-interest that they would rebel against God, just as he himself had done when he had chosen to go his own way rather than God's. He was trying to make Eve think it would be to their advantage if she and Adam ate the fruit and, thereby, became independent of God.

- **Satan wanted Eve to think she could be equal with God.**

He wanted her to think she would not need God to tell her what was right and wrong or what she could and could not do. However, as we have already seen,

God didn't create people to live by their own ideas. We were meant to be guided by what He says. It does not matter what I think, what you think, what other people think, or what Satan says; the important thing is what God says.

- **Satan is still the same today.**

He is not the character so often depicted with the pitchfork and red suit who torments people in Hell. In fact, Satan and his evil angels are not in Hell. They are here in this world.

**Verification verse for teacher only:** 1 Peter 5:8

Satan is the great Deceiver – God's enemy and our enemy. He does not want us to listen to God's Word and will use any means to hinder us from doing so. He wants us to live our lives to please ourselves and, in the end, be separated from God forever.

❓ What is one of the most important things we can learn from this account?

*That God always tells the truth and always does exactly as He says.*

In contrast to God, Satan is a liar and a murderer.

**Verification verse for teacher only:** John 8:44

Although Satan told Adam and Eve that they would not die if they disobeyed God, he knew that they would. Satan deceived, lied and tempted Adam and Eve because he wanted them to die.

#### 4. Eve ate the fruit and also gave some to Adam.



Read Genesis 3:6.

- **Satan deceived Eve, and she believed him.**

Eve believed Satan was telling the truth. Satan had tricked her into thinking that if she ate the fruit, she would be wise like God. Eve yielded to Satan's temptation to disobey God's command.

**Verification verse for teacher only:** 1 Timothy 2:14

- **Eve gave the fruit to Adam who was there with her.**

Although Adam had not been deceived by Satan's lies, he took the fruit from Eve and ate it.

- **Adam deliberately disobeyed God's command.**

Even though Adam knew what God had commanded, he deliberately disobeyed Him and, in so doing, turned away from depending on God. That's what Adam wanted – to be independent and be able to decide for himself what was right or wrong.

- **Adam did not want God to rule over him any longer.**

Instead of allowing God to have the rightful place in his life, Adam put himself first. He wanted to control his own life and do as he pleased.

- **Why did God have the right to rule over Adam?**

*Because God was his Creator, and everything Adam enjoyed came from Him.*

We might ask if God has the right to tell us what to do. And the answer is that He certainly does, because He gave us life and everything we have comes from Him.

## 5. When Adam and Eve sinned, they were immediately separated from God.



Read Genesis 3:7-8.

- **Although God told Adam that they would die if they ate the fruit, they did not immediately drop dead.**

**Teacher:** The following questions are intended to help the students think through the truth, and are not meant to be verbally answered.

Just think about these questions:

- **Does that mean what God said would happen didn't happen?**
- **Had God lied to them?**
- **Was He merely trying to frighten them into subjection to Him?**
- **Was Satan right after all?**

Satan had not told them the truth, and God hadn't lied to them. They died spiritually the moment they disobeyed Him.

- **Adam and Eve were immediately separated from God.**

**Teacher:** When you taught Lesson 6, you showed a branch you had broken off a tree in order to illustrate the meaning of death. You explained that the branch could not continue to live once it had been separated from its source of life. This showed how Adam, too, would be separated from God, the source of his life, if he disobeyed God.

Show that same branch as you teach this lesson. By now, the evidence that it is dying will be clearly visible. Seeing an actual object that has been separated from its source of life will help make it clear that Adam and Eve were separated from God. Keep this branch to use again in Lessons 11 and 12.

Here is the branch I previously broke off a tree. When it was first detached, the leaves still looked fresh and alive. Even so, from the moment the branch was no longer joined to the tree, it began to die. Though it didn't appear to be dead right away, it started to die the moment it was separated from its source of life.

- **Death wasn't evident in Adam and Eve's bodies on the day they disobeyed God.**

They were still breathing and walking around, but they had died spiritually from that very moment. Their souls and spirits, which were made in God's image, were separated from Him. They were no longer able to know, love and obey God.

- **God always does what He says.**

God doesn't threaten to punish sin and then not do it. He hates everything that is wrong and punishes all disobedience to His commands. The punishment for sin is death.

- **Because of Adam and Eve's sin, their relationship to God was now broken and they had become alienated from Him.**

**Teacher:** Show Supplemental Visual 10.



In Romans 6:23 it says that *“The wages of sin is death ....”*

From that time forward, Adam and Eve were dead to God spiritually and were also in the process of dying physically. Their bodies gradually began to age and eventually would experience physical death. At this point, they would be separated from God forever. Because they had joined forces with Satan in his rebellion against God, they, too, would be punished in the Lake of Fire.

- **Adam and Eve had become the enemies of God.**

God is holy and righteous, so He cannot have fellowship with those who disobey Him. For that reason, Adam and Eve, through their disobedience, would no longer enjoy the friendship they once had with God. They had shifted their allegiance, joining with God's great enemy, Satan.

**Teacher:** Use an illustration about what happens when one's friend sides with one's enemy. For example:

Imagine if one of your friends turned away from you and became a friend of someone who hated you, and even wanted to kill you. Your former friend would then be aligning himself with your enemy.

**Verification verses for teacher only:** Matthew 12:30  
Romans 5:10

## 6. Adam and Eve's attitudes and actions showed that they were now separated from God.

When Adam and Eve sinned, their attitudes and actions showed that the perfect relationship they previously had with God was now destroyed.

- **First, their attitudes toward their own bodies changed.**



Read Genesis 3:7 again.

- **?** According to this verse, how had their attitudes towards their bodies changed?

*They were embarrassed by their nakedness.*

Before Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they were naked, yet not embarrassed. But once they were separated from Him, their thoughts were no longer under God's control. They had become evil, and their attitude toward their bodies changed.

- **Secondly, they tried to provide for their own needs.**

Before they were separated from Him, they had looked to God for the provision of everything they needed. But once they were separated from Him, they tried to meet their own needs. They clothed themselves with fig leaves, no longer trusting their Creator to give them what they needed. They were foolishly attempting to live independently from God.

- **Adam and Eve didn't understand that God's acceptance of a person is not based on his outward appearance.**

Just as Adam and Eve tried to make themselves acceptable to God by clothing themselves, many people today think they can make themselves acceptable to God by having a good outward appearance.

- **?** Can you think of ways people try to make themselves acceptable to God?

**Teacher:** If the students do not mention the following, you should point out that some people try to make themselves acceptable to God by:

- Being christened
- Becoming church members
- Being baptized
- Going to church

- Praying
- Reading the Bible
- Being good parents
- Endeavoring to be law-abiding citizens
- Showing kindness to others.

**Teacher:** Show Supplemental Visual 11.



As hard as people may try to make themselves acceptable to God, those attempts are useless.

In 1 Samuel 16:7 it says that “... *man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.*”

- **Thirdly, Adam and Eve tried to hide from God.**



Read Genesis 3:8 again.

After they had disobeyed God, Adam and Eve hid when He came to visit with them in the Garden. They no longer wanted to talk with God.

**Teacher:** Ask a question to illustrate that friends who have quarreled no longer want to be friends. For example:

**?** If two friends have a serious quarrel and don't resolve their problem, why don't they continue to visit one another?

*People who have conflicting opinions and different attitudes don't usually want to be together.*

- **Adam and Eve's attitude toward God had changed.**

Before they disobeyed God, Adam and Eve were of one mind with Him. But as soon as they sinned, their thinking changed. They now were of one mind with Satan. They could no longer know and understand God. There was no unity between them as there once had been. Because of their disobedience to God, they were no longer His friends. They were now under Satan's control.

## 7. Adam and Eve were afraid of God.

- **Because they had disobeyed God's command, Adam and Eve were afraid of God.**

**Teacher:** Use an illustration about how children hide when they have disobeyed their parents. For example:

? When children deliberately disobey their parents, how do they act around them?

*They usually avoid their Dad and Mom and can't look them in the eye.*

When God created Adam and Eve, they didn't fear anything. They certainly were not afraid of God, because He was their friend. Everything in the world was good and beautiful. Sickness and death did not exist, and they had no fear of animals because they were tame and would not harm them.

But after Adam and Eve sinned, they experienced fear for the first time.

? Why were they right to be afraid?

*Because God Himself had warned them that they would die if they ate of the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.*

- **God does not make idle threats as people do.**

**Teacher:** Use an illustration about how some people get angry, but fail to carry out their threats. For example:

How often we hear in the news of some terrible threat which, ultimately, comes to nothing. In somewhat impressive speeches, political leaders sometimes threaten war, retaliation or sanctions against an enemy. However, without the support or the means to follow through with action, it may all prove to be empty threats.

Or on a more personal level, parents sometimes threaten to punish their children if they continue doing something they shouldn't. But when they repeat their actions, the parents often only threaten again or overlook the wrongdoing.

But God is not like that.

He did not merely threaten to punish Lucifer and the angels who rebelled against God.

? What happened to them when they rebelled against Him?

*They were stripped of their former position as servants of God and removed from His holy presence in Heaven.*

God always does exactly what He says He will do. He does not change or waver.

- **Adam and Eve were rightfully afraid of God.**

They had been warned of the punishment for disobedience to God – and they had disobeyed Him.

Disobedience to God is the reason we have fear in the world. Think about this: Fear came into this world because of sin. Ever since Adam and Eve disobeyed God, people have experienced terrible fear – fear of failure, of growing old, of becoming sick and of disasters and death.

- **Adam and Eve tried to hide from God.**

❓ Why is it impossible to hide from God?

*Because God is everywhere at the same time.*



Read Jeremiah 23:23-24.

When people do things they know are wrong, they usually try to conceal their actions from others. They often do their evil deeds under the cover of darkness. But God can see in the darkness just as He can see in the light. Nothing is hidden from God.

God’s Word makes it clear that, since the day we were born, God has heard every word we have said and seen everything we have done.



Read Psalm 139:1-12.

## 8. Conclusion

❓ Is there anything in particular you have learned from today’s lesson?

**Teacher:** Use this discussion time to glean understanding of how students interpreted the lesson and to reinforce the truths taught in the lesson.

**Teacher:** As you finish teaching the lesson, point to the spot reached on the Chronological Time Line as indicated by the arrow. You might say, for example, “This is where we are on the time line. We will resume studying God’s story here in our next lesson.”



