

Why Do Bad Things Happen?

Genesis 3:1-13

Week 1	Sin Enters the World
Story Opening	<p>Have your children share about a time when they got a bad cut or injury.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How did your child get the bad cut, scratch, or injury?• Did the injury require a bandage or stitches or a cast?• Who helped them get better?• How long did it take?• What would happen if we did not do anything to help the injury get better? <p>Sometimes it's our hearts that get hurt by people or circumstances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What does that feel like?• Who can help us when our hearts hurt?
Background	<p>Make a connection to the Bible Story:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have you ever heard the word sin?• What is sin? (Sin is not obeying God.) Read I John 3:4 and James 4:17.• What happens when we sin? (We hurt our relationship with God, we hurt our relationship with others, and it causes bad things to happen.)• Let's read in the Bible about the first time people sinned and disobeyed God. When God created the world, He made a beautiful garden for the first people - Adam and Eve - to live in. It was called Eden. God had one rule for them to obey: they should not eat fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But God had an enemy. His name is Satan. At one time, Satan was the most beautiful angel, but he chose to rebel against God. He wants to destroy God's kingdom, and he knows his time is limited. In this story, Satan uses something to come against God. Listen to how he does it.
Telling the Story	<p>Read Genesis 3:1-13 (printed below or consider reading from a children's Bible if your children are younger).</p>
Retelling the Story	<p>Toss a bean bag among family members. Whoever the bean bag is thrown to has to re-tell the next part of the story. Continue until the entire story has been retold.</p>

<p>Discovery & Response Questions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What stood out to you in today’s story? • Could you imagine being there as the story was being told? What did you see? • In what ways did the snake lie to the woman? In what ways does Satan lie to us? • How did Adam and Eve disobey God? • Why did Adam and Eve disobey God? • How did Adam and Eve respond when God came to visit with them that day? Why do you think they responded that way? • How do you think God felt when Adam and Eve disobeyed him? • In what ways do we disobey God and separate ourselves from Him? How do you think God feels when we do those things? How do you feel when this happens? <p>When Adam and Eve sinned, they hurt their relationship with God, and that sin was passed on to every person who came after them (read Romans 5:19). We are born with a sinful nature that causes us to have a broken relationship with God. (Check out Romans 3:23 and Romans 5:12.) We live in a world that is broken and hurt by sin, and that is why we experience bad things happening like the COVID virus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have you seen this in your life? In your family? In your community? • How can this hurt of sin be healed? Read Romans 5:8 and 6:23. God knew we could never heal ourselves or be good enough to overcome our sin on our own, so He sent Jesus. Jesus took the punishment for our sins. When we confess our sins to God and put our trust in Jesus to save us, God forgives us, promises us eternal life with Him, and gives us the Holy Spirit to change us into new people (read 2 Corinthians 5:17)! <p>We still experience hard and bad things in this life because the world is still broken by sin until Jesus comes back to restore everything (see Revelation 21:1-5). But until that time, we can be confident in the midst of challenges, disappointments, fear, and grief that God is WITH us, He LOVES us, and He promises to work ALL things – even bad things - together for good to those who love Him (Romans 8:28).</p>
<p>Response Station</p>	<p>Give your children the chance to respond to the Good News of the gospel, that God has provided a rescue from our sin and a way to make our hurt relationship with God healed. Invite them to put their faith in Jesus. If your child has a relationship with Christ, give them time to praise God for that gift of salvation (could be done in prayer, singing a song, writing, drawing a picture, discussing as a family). Pray as a family for the brokenness we see in our world and ask God to restore and heal those things broken by sin.</p>

Story: Genesis 3:1-13 (ESV)

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."