

THE PEOPLE OF ADVENT



Week One - Adam & Eve

A Note to the Parents/Teachers

As we look back to the very first people and see that they entered into a season of Advent (waiting, longing, and hoping for rescue to come), we realize that we too are part of this story, continuing as people of Advent - waiting, longing, and hoping for Jesus to come again. But we also see how God has always been true to His promises along the way, and will continue to be for us in the future. This brings us hope!

- **Big Idea:** God gave a promise of rescue when the very first people sinned - and that promise is still true for us today!

Starter

- **Evidences of Grace**

Take some time to ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work this week, month, or even past year. Anything, big or small, that is good is from God. When a kid shares, encourage everyone to thank God together.

Sing Together

Born Is the King (It's Christmas) - <https://youtu.be/EnMBUjCPaZ0>

Story - from Genesis 3 and The Jesus Storybook Bible

****You may alternatively choose to read 'The Terrible Lie' from The Jesus Storybook Bible in place of this reading****

In the beginning, God created a perfect world with no pain or sickness or death. He made special creatures, humans, to rule over and care for His world and to show the world what He is like. But, one day a serpent in the garden told them they could rule without God. So, they rebelled against God and ate from a tree that offered knowledge of what is good and not good. They wanted to decide for themselves, rather than trust God to tell them how to live. God warned them if they ate from that tree they would die, but they listened to the voice of the serpent instead.

Then the man and woman heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden during the breeze of the day, so they hid from Him in the trees. The Lord God called out to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”

And he said, “I heard you in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.” Then God asked, “Who told you that you were naked? Did you take what I commanded you not to take?”

The man replied, “The woman you gave to be with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate.” So the Lord God asked the woman, “What is this you have done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

So the Lord God said to the serpent:

“Because you have done this, you are cursed more than any other animal. You will crawl on your belly and eat dust all the days of your life. You and your children will be enemies of the woman and her children. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

He said to the woman:

“Having children will now bring you great pain. You will desire to be over your husband, yet he will rule over you.”

And he said to the man:

“Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree I commanded you to not eat from, the ground is cursed. You will work in painful labor through thorns and thistles to get food from it. You will eat bread by the sweat of your brow until you return to the ground, since you were taken from it. For you are dust, and you will return to dust.”

Before they left the garden, God whispered a promise to Adam and Eve: "It will not always be so! I will come to rescue you! And when I do, I'm going to do battle against the snake. I'll get rid of the sin and the dark and the sadness you let in here. I'm coming back for you!" And he would. One day, God himself would come.

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- Why do you think the people believed the serpent's words over God's?
- Do you ever have trouble believing what God says?
- Even though the people disobeyed and brought destruction to God's good creation, He still gave them a promise - that one day He would come rescue them. Why do you think God didn't just give up on His people?
- Do you think God's promise of rescue is still for us, today?
- How has God been true to His word and promise for rescue?

Breakout Time

- **Prayer:**

God, thank You for making a promise to save the world - and for keeping that promise! Help us to trust Your word. In Jesus' name, amen.

- **Craft:**

Use the attached sheet for kids to color and to discuss as a class what story it is telling.

The woman on the left represents Eve, the first woman, who failed to trust God's words and brought death into the world through sin. But she was also given a promise that one day her offspring would rescue the world. The woman on the right represents Mary, a long-awaited descendant of Eve, who trusted God's word to her about having a child - the long-awaited offspring who would crush the head of the lying serpent.

Have the kids draw their own picture on the back, showing how they would tell the story of God's promise to save us.

- **BLESS Activity:**

For kids to do during the week

Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask the Spirit to help us to *Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath* (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.

This week, focus on the **Listen** rhythm. What are some of the promises God has made His people? Ask your parents to help you look at the bible this week for promises God has made. Did He come through on those promises? Ask God how He has promised to rescue you and try to listen for His Spirit to speak to you.



motherhood

"In pain you will bring forth children."
Genesis 3:16