

The Story of Adam and Eve.

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Last time we heard how God made the beautiful world for us to enjoy.

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And I also told you that God made the first man, and this first man was called Adam.

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God also made the first woman. She was called Eve.

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God also made a beautiful garden. It was called the Garden of Eden.

It was full of beautiful flowers

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and trees, with soft grass.

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There were all sorts of animals

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and birds as well.

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“Welcome to my garden,” said God to Adam and Eve. I want you to enjoy this world, and this garden. Take care of it for me. You can eat anything you want to in the garden.”

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Then God said something very important, “BUT there is a tree in the very middle of the garden. Please do not touch it. And do NOT eat the fruit that grows on it. That tree will give you the knowledge of what good and what is bad. If you ever eat the fruit from that tree, you will have to leave this garden. You will not be able to live here any more. You will die.”

God was explaining that if they ate the fruit from that tree, Adam and Eve would not actually drop down dead, but it would spoil the wonderful friendship that they had with God. They would not be able to enjoy the garden. Their whole lives would change.

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There was also a being called the Devil, or Satan. He is God's enemy. All he ever wants to do is spoil all the good things that God has done.

Satan, saw the lovely garden, and he wanted to spoil it. Satan saw Adam and Eve enjoying the garden, and Satan wanted to spoil that as well. Satan saw that Adam and Eve had a special friendship with God and Satan wanted to spoil that too.

So Satan pretended to be a snake, and he went into the garden.

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Eve was in the middle of the garden, near the special tree. This was the tree that God had said they must not touch.

The snake slithered up to Eve and said, “Eve, what trees are you allowed to eat the fruit from?”

Eve said to the snake – or Satan - “God told us that we could eat all the fruit in the garden except the fruit from this tree. ”

The snake said, “Why did God say that? That's silly.”

Eve said to the snake, "If we eat the fruit we will make God very sad, and we will have to leave the Garden. God said we would die."

The snake said, "That is rubbish! God has told you not to eat the fruit because He knows that when you do, you will understand what being bad is, as well as being good. You will be able to choose for yourself what is right and what is wrong. Nothing will REALLY happen to you!"

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Eve looked at the fruit. It looked really good. Eve wondered what it tasted like. Eve also believed the lie that Satan had told her. So she reached out and picked a bit of the fruit and ate it. It tasted really good.

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Eve picked some more and gave Adam some to eat as well.

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Immediately Adam and Eve knew that they had done something really wrong. They knew that they had disobeyed God, and had made him unhappy. For the first time in their lives they felt guilty, and ashamed.

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They were also afraid of God.

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Normally they would run to meet God when He came into the garden, but now when God came into the Garden, they ran away and tried to hide from God. But of course no one can hide from God.

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God called out, "Adam, where are you?"

Adam said, “ I was trying to hide from you, because I felt ashamed and naked and guilty.”

God said to Adam, “Did you eat the fruit from that special tree?”

Adam said, “I did, but it was Eve's fault – she gave me some of the fruit to eat.”

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God said to Eve, “What have you done”

Eve said, “It wasn't my fault, it was the snake's fault”

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God told the snake, “You will have to crawl on your belly from now on and forever.”

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God said to Adam and Eve, “You did not obey me. You will have to leave the garden. From now on you'll have to work hard growing food, and making clothes. Nothing will come easily. Even giving birth to children will be hard. And one day, you will die. Your friendship with me will change as well. You cannot live in this garden with me any more”

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So Adam and Eve had to leave the garden.

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And God made sure they could not get back. The door to the garden was guarded by a flaming sword.

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Adam and Eve disobeyed God. That is called sin. Every time we disobey God we make Him sad.

But the story does not end there. Even though God threw Adam and Eve out of the Garden, God promised that the misery of sin would be overcome – that Satan would be overcome.

And this is exactly what happened.

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After Jesus died on the cross,

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He rose again.

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Satan was defeated, and we can now enjoy once again, a deep friendship with God.