

## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

### Genesis, Chapter 3

#### The Tempting Fruit

Nothing could spoil the happiness of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Or so it seemed. But there was one person who was plotting to spoil all that God had made. He was Satan, the enemy of God, who hated all that was good and lovely.

One day, the snake, who was the most cunning of all the creatures in the garden, whispered to Eve.

‘Did God *really* say that you must not eat any of the fruit from these lovely trees?’

‘Of course not,’ Eve replied, ‘we can eat all the fruit we want – except for just that

one tree over there. God says that we must not eat that fruit, for if we do we shall die.’

‘That’s not true,’ the snake said softly. ‘God knows that if you eat *that* fruit you will be as wise and clever as he is. That is why he has told you not to.’

Eve looked with new eyes at the luscious fruit that hung in clusters from the forbidden tree. How lovely it looked! She imagined how good it would taste. Then she thought how wonderful it would be to become as wise as the snake had promised. Then, her mind made up, she quickly picked one of the tempting fruits, bit into it and handed it to Adam to try too.

But instead of feeling clever and wise, they both felt miserable and ashamed. They had disobeyed the wise and

loving God who was their Creator and their Friend.

When evening came, they did not hurry out to meet God. They were ashamed because they had disobeyed him. They picked some large leaves to try to cover their bodies, and then hid silently in the bushes.

Every other evening they had eagerly waited for God’s loving call. Now they listened in fear for the well-known sound of God’s voice. At last they heard him.

‘Where are you, Adam?’ God called.

With downcast eyes, they crept out to meet the God they no longer wanted to see.

## Paradise Lost

Adam and Eve came slowly out to meet God. He looked long and sadly at the guilty pair.

'Why were you hiding?' he asked them.

'I was afraid to see you, because I am naked,' Adam stammered.

'Who told you that?' God asked. 'Have you eaten the fruit from the tree that gives knowledge of what is good and what is evil?'

'It was not *my* fault,' Adam said. 'Eve persuaded me.'

'It was not *my* fault,' Eve said. 'The snake tricked me into eating it.'

God spoke to each of them in turn. He explained that by disobeying him they had spoiled his lovely world. Now, weeds and thorns would spring up

among the crops and flowers. Work would become hard and wearisome.

There was something even sadder to follow. 'You can no longer stay in this garden,' God said. 'We have walked and talked together here, but now you have chosen to do what *you* want, and that means you have chosen to go away from me. Now you must go out into the world and make your own way. And when you are old, you will die.'

With heavy hearts, Adam and Eve left the beautiful Garden of Eden.

God's messengers, with swords of flame, guarded the gates of the paradise that mankind had lost, so it seemed, forever.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

### Luke 1, 26-56

#### An Angel Tells about the Birth of Jesus

<sup>26</sup> One month later God sent the angel Gabriel to the town of Nazareth in Galilee with a message for a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to Joseph from the family of King David. <sup>28</sup> The angel greeted Mary and said, “You are truly blessed!” The Lord is with you.”

<sup>29</sup> Mary was confused by the angel’s words and wondered what they meant. Then the angel told Mary, “Don’t be afraid! God is pleased with you, <sup>31</sup> and you will have a son. His name will be Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of God Most High. The Lord God will make

him king, as his ancestor David was. <sup>33</sup> He will rule the people of Israel for ever, and his kingdom will never end.”

<sup>34</sup> Mary asked the angel, “How can this happen? I am not married!”

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come down to you, and God’s power will come over you. So your child will be called the holy Son of God.

<sup>36</sup> Your relative Elizabeth is also going to have a son, even though she is old. No one thought she could ever have a baby, but in three months she will have a son.

<sup>37</sup> Nothing is impossible for God!”

<sup>38</sup> Mary said, “I am the Lord’s servant! Let it happen as you have said.” And the angel left her.

#### Mary Visits Elizabeth

<sup>39</sup> A short time later Mary hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea. <sup>40</sup> She went into Zechariah’s home, where she greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, her baby moved within her.

The Holy Spirit came upon Elizabeth. <sup>42</sup> Then in a loud voice she said to Mary:

God has blessed you more than any other woman! He has also blessed the child you will have. <sup>43</sup> Why should the mother of my Lord come to me? <sup>44</sup> As soon as I heard your greeting, my baby became happy and moved within me. <sup>45</sup> The Lord has blessed you because you believed that he will keep his promise.

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## **Mary's Song of Praise**

<sup>46</sup> Mary said: <sup>47</sup> With all my heart I praise the Lord, and I am glad because of God my Savior. <sup>48</sup> He cares for me, his humble servant. From now on, all people will say God has blessed me.

<sup>49</sup> God All-Powerful has done great things for me, and his name is holy. He always shows mercy to everyone who worships him.

<sup>51</sup> The Lord has used his powerful arm to scatter those who are proud.

<sup>52</sup> He drags strong rulers from their thrones and puts humble people in places of power. <sup>53</sup> He gives the hungry good things to eat, and he sends the rich away with nothing in their hands. <sup>54</sup> He helps his servant Israel and is always merciful to his people. <sup>55</sup> He made this promise to our

ancestors, to Abraham and his family forever!

<sup>56</sup> Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months. Then she went back home.