



S2.Lesson 17: Our Attention NOT on God – Adam & Eve

Middle School Lesson Plans

Supplies Needed: Journals; Handout; tv or laptop to show movie clip (movie clip link is available at rfour.org/curriculum.html); vanilla and chocolate ice cream; ice cream scooper; bowls; chocolate syrup; whip cream; spoons; a blender

OPENING PRAYER

TELL

- We're going to watch a clip from the movie: *The World's Fastest Indian*. The movie is about an individual who tried to build the fastest motorcycle in the world. Let's see how fast it can go.

WATCH *The World's Fastest Indian* Video Clip

ASK

- How fast was the bike? (once it got started, pretty speedy!)
- But what could it NOT do? (start from a dead stop; make turns)
- But when it went in a straight line, it was pretty cool, wasn't it!?

TELL

- We're going to look at a story now of when things were pretty cool.
- Back in the days of Adam and Eve when they lived in the Garden of Eden.
- But we're going to read the story when they decided to stop going in a straight line and try to make a turn, so to speak.

READ

Genesis 2

16 And the LORD God commanded them, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

Genesis 3:1-13; 23

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" 4 "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God

knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. 8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" 10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." 11 And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" 12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me--she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." 13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

(a bunch of curses and then...)

23 So the LORD God banished them from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which they had been taken.

ASK/TELL

- What did God tell Adam and Eve that they could not do in verse 16 and 17 of chapter 2? (don't eat the fruit of one tree)
- Why do you think God would put a tree in there that they couldn't eat in the first place? (choice has to be offered in order to have relationship with someone; without choice, life is then sort of like prison; without choice there is no possible reflection of the other person/entity in the relationship)
- Now what did Eve tell the serpent they could not do? (not even touch the fruit)
- Why do you think Eve got it wrong? (speculation: when there's something that is taboo or dangerous, we make it even more dangerous in our minds than it actually is as a way to stay clear; or she just didn't pay attention/she had forgotten the specifics)
- The only other talking animal in the bible is a donkey (balaam's donkey – Numbers 22:28). It's very possible that there was a talking snake in this story, but another way to think about the snake is as a representation of the voice inside of us that tells us to do things that are against what God calls us to do. In order for choice to exist, it seems like such a voice has to exist in order to offer other, non-God options.
- The temptation that the snake offers is the temptation we always face. The choice is always this: Do we want to trust God or do we want to replace God by acting like God? We can't do both. It has to be one or the other. So of these two options, what does Eve choose? (to replace God by making her own decision)
- According to this story what does replacing God look like (verse 5)? (knowing good and evil)

- So when we decide on our own what is good or not good, then we're replacing God instead of trusting God, right?
- Before Eve even eats the fruit, she's practicing knowing good and evil, right? What's Eve thinking about before she eats the fruit in verse 6 of chapter 3? (that the fruit looks good, pleasing, and desirable)
- In verse 7 then, when Adam and Eve realize that they are naked, what do they decide (that it's bad and that they should cover up)
- In verse 8, does God sound scary to you? (walking in the garden in the cool of the day...no, not really)
- And yet, what is the response of Adam and Eve? (to hide)
- Was this Adam's response to God earlier in Chapter two? (nope!)
- So again, we see with Adam and Eve how replacing God erodes our ability to TRUST God.
- In verse 12, what's the next thing that Adam and Eve do (blame each other; not take responsibility for their own actions)
- When you do something wrong and get caught, what are you supposed to do? (admit you were wrong and apologize)
- What do Adam and Eve NOT do (they do not apologize)
- In verse 23, do you think the punishment is too much? Why or why not?
- What do you think about the idea that we can't live in the Garden of Eden because of Adam and Eve's actions?

TELL

- In the movie we saw a motorcycle that could do one thing and do it very well. And that was to go fast in a straight line.
- And when the bike was doing this one thing, it was enjoyable for the rider, wasn't it?
- But once the driver tried to use the bike for something other than going fast in a straight line, what happened? (it fell over/stopped working)
- The same thing is what happened for Adam and Eve. They tried to do something that was outside their design. And when they did, they fell over.
- And, their falling over didn't hurt just them. It hurt others as well.
- In the Jonah and Transfiguration stories, we talked about how paying attention to God was beneficial for the individual AND for those around the individual.
- But what is also true is that when one person doesn't pay attention to God, that can also mess things up for the people surrounding that person, making it harder for them to pay attention to God as well. (as we saw with Cain in last week's lesson)
- We're going to do a demonstration now to help illustrate this point.

DEMONSTRATION

- As you can see, I have some ice cream here: Chocolate and vanilla.
- I also have some chocolate syrup.

- And I'm putting it in a blender. And I'm putting chocolate chips in it. And I'm blending it up.
- Looks pretty good. And you can tell as you watch me make it, that this milkshake has been made as a labor of love.
- Who thinks they are going to want some of this fantastically delicious milkshake?
- Before I pour some out for you, I have to add one more special ingredient.
- [Make a clearing of throat sound, as loud and disgusting as possible, and then SPIT into the blender and ice cream.]
- There! Let me blend that into the milkshake...[blend] and Who wants some!?!
- No one wants any? But why!?! (because there's spit in it!)
- All this good ice cream and milkshake ruined because of one action, right?
- So this is what happens when we don't pay attention to God. We ruin it for those who are paying attention to God.
- The good news is that even though Adam and Eve and subsequently, you and I, were kicked out of the Garden of Eden, there's still a way to live together and with God.
- God didn't give up on us.
- Jesus tells us that the Good News is that the Kingdom of God is at hand. In other words, the Garden of Eden still exists for us to live in. However, it is not a place, but a way of life. We just have to choose to let God be king in our lives.
- We'll talk some about how we can experience God's Kingdom starting next session!

NOTE: At the end of the lesson, hopefully you have the time to let the students make Ice Cream Sundaes sans the saliva!

CLOSING PRAYER