
BIG IDEA: GOD'S LOVE NEVER ENDS

DATE: SEPTEMBER 4-5, 2021 — **STORY:** THE FALL

BIBLE BASIS: GENESIS 3

SERIES: UNFAILING LOVE

Join us throughout the month of September as we learn about God's great UNFAILING LOVE! We will be going through stories in Genesis.

MEMORY VERSE

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. —JOHN 3:16

SCHEDULE

0:00–0:10	Welcome Activities/Check-In
0:10–0:15	Transition to Large Group (B100)
0:15–0:30	Large Group (Worship, Memory Verse, Global Partner Spotlight)
0:30–0:35	Transition to Small Group (Back to Classrooms)
0:35–1:05	Small Group (Storytelling, Questions, Big Idea Connection, Respond Activity)
1:05–1:15	Dismiss/Additional Activities (During Check-Out)

SERIES OVERVIEW

Date	Story	Big Idea	Bible Basis
August 21-22	ZONK		Review Weekend
August 28-29	Creation	God is Creator	Genesis 1-2
September 4-5	The Fall	God's Love Never Ends	Genesis 3
September 11-12	Cain & Abel	Turn to God, Not to Sin	Genesis 4
September 18-19	Noah & The Flood	God Helps Us To Obey Him	Genesis 6-9
September 25-26	Abraham	God Is A Promise Keeper	Genesis 15, 17, 18, 21
October 2-3	Isaac	I Can Always Trust God	Genesis 22
October 9-10	Jacob & Esau	God Has A Plan For Me	Genesis 25, 27

SEPTEMBER 4-5

STORY: THE FALL

GENESIS 3

DEVOTIONAL

In my house, the laundry room is downstairs. One day, in the spirit of efficiency (or possibly laziness), I decided to carry all of the dirty clothes down at once, instead of making several trips. I could barely see above the gargantuan mound that I was lugging, which is saying something because I'm 6' 7" tall with the arm length to match. As I headed down the stairs one of my dogs was rushing up the stairs right under where I was preparing to plant my next step. I noticed her at the last second and, being an animal lover, diverted my foot placement, which didn't go so well. Instead of stepping on the dog I stepped on a conveniently placed toy. I slipped, clothes flew up in the air, and I let out an unmanly yelp. As I emerged unharmed from the pile of clothes that now covered me at the bottom of the stairs, I took note of my wife doubled over, chortling from the sight she had just witnessed. Not willing to acknowledge what had just occurred, I picked myself up, gathered the clothes, and continued on my way as if nothing happened.

So why did I end up in a mess at the bottom of the stairs? I ended up there because instead of doing things the "correct, wise way" and making two trips, I chose to do things the "not-so-great, easy way." This is the basic idea of the most frequently used word used to describe "sin" in the Bible.

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word most used for sin is pronounced "chata" and is used 444 times. In the New Testament, the Greek word is pronounced "hamartia." The basic definition is "missing the mark." But the idea goes further than that. It describes not only missing the mark, but also actively hitting an entirely different mark. This word is often used to call out the reality of idolatry in our lives—the type of sin when we don't actively seek living for God and choose to live a different way. King Solomon puts it this way: "But those who don't find me (God) harm only themselves. Everyone who hates me loves death." (Proverbs 8:36) There's one more part of this word that must not be overlooked; when this word is used it's almost always paired with the opportunity for forgiveness. This speaks heavily to the character of God, and points to his grace, mercy, and love.

As you prepare to communicate the story of how sin entered the world, take time to investigate if there is anything that you need to confess. Are there any things that you are choosing to pursue rather than the one true God? As you take time to do this, remember that through Jesus we are forgiven. God didn't give up on us; He made a way for us to come back to Him. "Give thanks to the LORD, because he is good. His faithful love continues forever." Psalm 107:1 (NIRV)

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GO! Contributor

PROVIDED RESOURCES

Welcome Activities: Coloring/activity pages; coloring supplies

Storytelling: None

Big Idea Connection: Target print out, ping-pong balls in classes, tape

Respond Activity: Target print out, ping-pong balls in classes, tape

Additional Activities: True & False signs, tape

***If you need any additional resources, please let us know so that we can provide that for you!*

WELCOME ACTIVITIES

OPTION 1: COLORING PAGE/ ACTIVITY PAGE

Copies of coloring/activity pages will always be provided in your teacher resource basket or folder.

Allow students to color or do the activity page on the back.

OPTION 2: THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN:

An activity to hear about everyone's week.

Simply ask the kids in your group to share one good thing that happened this week (thumbs up) and one not-so-good thing (thumbs down). This is a great way for your group to share celebrations and struggles with one another.

OPTION 3: STUDENT CHOICE

Allow students to choose which option they would like to do.

**Students can also choose to do the coloring/activity page while they wait their turn to participate in Option 2.*

STORYTELLING

Last week we jumped into the first book of the Bible. Can anyone tell me what it's called? (*Invite answers.*) That's right—Genesis. The word "Genesis" means "the beginning." The book of Genesis tells us about the beginning of the world. It teaches us that God created the world and everything in it! And it was all wonderful—that is, until something happened and messed it all up. We're going to learn more about what happened in just a little bit, but first I want to ask you all a question. Can anyone tell me about a time you made something really cool and then someone else came along and totally ruined it? *Take a few answers from the kids.*

Wow! I'll bet you were all pretty mad—weren't you? Can you show me what you look like when you get mad? (*Kids shows mad face.*) Wow! That's pretty mad! You've all probably felt that way before. You worked so hard to make something. It was perfect and then someone came in and totally wrecked it! You probably just wanted to scream. Well today, we're going to talk about a story where God had created something amazing only to have someone else come in and wreck it, but His reaction might be hard to imagine.

In the Bible, in the book of Genesis, God created the whole world and everything in it. Picture yourself flying over the earth God just created. Look down. What do you see? What does it feel like to be soaring through the air? Now imagine yourself landing in the middle of the most amazing garden ever. Imagine all of the things you would see and hear and smell. Picture yourself touching the different plants. Look at all of the different trees with fruit on them. Now, imagine that there's a river running right through the middle of it. That garden you just landed in—it's called the "Garden of Eden." It's a place that God created for Adam and Eve to live in, and it was pretty out-of-this-world cool!

The best part about the Garden is that God spent time with Adam and Eve there. God had a special relationship with Adam and Eve and took care of them. Can you believe that? Imagine what it must have been like to actually walk and talk with God in the garden. What do you think God's voice sounds like? Life was perfect in the Garden. No one ever got sick or died. No one was ever mean. Everyone told the truth. It's kind of hard, but can you imagine how you would feel in a place like that?

There was just one rule in the garden. Let's see what rule God told Adam and Eve, in Genesis 1:16-17. (*Ask a volunteer to read.*) Imagine this tree in the middle of the garden. Was it bigger than the others? The Bible doesn't say what kind of fruit was on the tree. What do you

STORYTELLING (CONT.)

think the fruit looked like?

The Bible says in Genesis chapter 3 that Satan slithered up to Eve in the form of a snake. Imagine the snake talking to Eve. Let's see what he said. (*Ask a volunteer to read Genesis 3:1*) And then the snake lied to Eve. (*Ask a volunteer to read Genesis 3:4-5*). Picture in your mind Eve reaching up and picking one of the special fruits from the tree of knowledge. The Bible says that Eve couldn't resist, so she took a big bite. Can you hear the sound of Eve biting into the fruit? What do you think it tasted like? Was it good? After she had some, she gave it to Adam and he ate some too. And then they felt something they had never felt before—they felt ashamed. They got that sick feeling in their stomach you get when you know you've done something really wrong.

Just then, they heard God walking in the garden. Adam and Eve did something else they had never done before—they hid from God. Imagine Adam and Eve quickly hiding in the garden. What do you think they hid behind? God already knew everything that happened, and He called out to them. (*Ask a volunteer to read Genesis 3:9*). Adam came out of hiding and said to God, "I heard you in the garden... I was afraid...so I hid." (*from Genesis 3:10*) God already knew about their terrible choice and He knew things would never be the same. Along with the sin came sickness and death. But there was something even worse. The sin wrecked their perfect relationship with God. Picture a giant wall separating God from Adam and Eve. That wall is just like sin; it separates us from God. But here's the really amazing part. Even though people totally wrecked God's perfect world with their sin, God kept on loving us. Can you imagine that?

QUESTIONS

This can be done as a large group or in table groups

For Younger Kids:

1. Of all the things you imagined, what was your favorite? Describe it.
2. Why do you think Adam and Eve chose to listen to Satan instead of God?

For Older Kids:

1. Of all the things you imagined, what was your favorite? Describe it.
2. What do you think this story teaches us about God?

BIG IDEA CONNECTION

When Adam and Eve sinned, there were some pretty big consequences. What were they? *(Take answers.)* Sin definitely has terrible consequences, but do you know what I love about this story? It shows us that God never stops loving us even though we sin.

We've said that word a bit now—"sin." Do you know what it means? Let me show you something. *(Walk over to the target)* Over here I have a target and in the center is the bullseye. I need a volunteer to come up who thinks they're a pretty good shot. *Choose a volunteer. Have them stand at a distance from the target that would make it challenging to hit. Give them three chances to hit the bullseye.*

Now, you didn't always hit the bullseye, did you? Sometimes you missed the mark. In our lives, God wants us to live for Him and do what He calls us to do. For example, God wants us to love others the way that He does. *(Write "Love others" on the bullseye)* But we don't always live for God the way He wants us to. Sometimes, we're mean to our siblings or are rude to our friends. *(Throw ball and purposefully miss the bullseye)* We miss the mark that God wants us to hit. When we miss God's mark *(point to center of the target)*, that's called sin. Adam and Eve missed the mark big time, but they weren't the only ones. We miss the mark, too. In fact, sin is everywhere in the world. And there are bad things that happen because sin is in our world. Things like sickness, death, lies, stealing and being afraid. You get the idea. Sin wrecked everything, but worst of all, it separated us from God.

But here's the good news: **God's love for us never ends.** That's what Psalm 107:1 tells us. *(Encourage kids to open their Bibles to Psalm 107:1.)* God had created something absolutely amazing, but because of sin, things became broken. But, instead of getting mad and leaving us, God kept on loving us. Just like that verse said, God's love for us is faithful and it continues forever, no matter what. He loves us so much that He already had a plan to fix our broken friendship with him. Does anyone know what that plan was? *(Take answer from kid.)* That's right—many years later, God would send his son Jesus to wipe away all of those sins that separated us from Him. God loves you so much that He did everything to make a way for you to be with Him forever. We see that in John 3:16, our memory verse. Do you all remember it? Let's say it together. *(Recite the verse with the kids).* God loves you so much and His love never ends. For anyone who wants to have a friendship with God, He is right there waiting for you to chose to follow Him. *(Lead kids in a closing prayer as you feel led by the Holy Spirit.)*

RESPOND ACTIVITY

In today's story, kids learned about the fall of man when Adam and Eve sinned by listening to the snake and eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Their sin resulted in a broken relationship between them and God. But God is loving and had a plan to restore the relationship between Himself and mankind through His Son, Jesus.

BULLSEYE CHALLENGE:

Say: God wants us to aim to do things His way, but sometimes we miss that mark. Right now we're going to play a game to see what happens when we disobey and miss God's mark.



Directions: Tape up the target on the whiteboard. Create a tape line 6 feet or more from the target. One at a time, have the kids in your group stand at the line and throw one ping pong ball at the target. If they hit the bullseye, they get to throw the ball again. If they miss the bullseye, they have to sit down. It shouldn't take long before all of your kids are seated. When your group is seated, ask the following questions:

Questions:

1. How fun was it to play a game where you were out after missing the target only one time?
2. What do you think happens when we miss God's mark? Does God give us another chance? Why?
3. In what ways do you think you've been missing God's mark?

Say: God is often referred to as the God of second chances. That's because He doesn't count us "out" after we miss the mark, or sin, one time. He made a way for us to be saved from the punishment of our sins through Jesus. God loves us and wants us to follow him, even after we make mistakes. The verse we heard today for today from Psalm 107:1 says, "Give thanks to the LORD because he is good. His love endures forever." God's love for us continues forever, even when we sin.

Directions: If there is still time remaining, you can have the kids play a second round. This time, allow the kids to throw the ball at the target repeatedly until they hit the bullseye. If they're having trouble, allow them to move closer and closer until they succeed.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

These additional activities are completely optional. These activities are meant to fill any time that you may have left. Students can participate or finish their respond activity. Have your adult helper check-out students while you do one or more of the options with the students who are waiting to be picked up by their parents.

TRUE/FALSE WALLS:

Bible Story Review Game

Tape up the "True" and "False" signs on opposite sides of the room. Read out the following statements and have kids walk over to which side they think is the right answer to help them remember today's story.

1. Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden. (T)
2. God told them there was no rules they had to listen to in the garden. (F)
3. God said they could only eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. (F)
4. Satan talked to Eve as a snake and lied to her. (T)
5. Eve didn't trust the snake and ran away. (F)
6. Adam and Eve both ate from the tree that God said not to. (T)
7. Adam and Eve didn't think they did anything bad because they didn't know better. (F)
8. Adam and Eve felt ashamed, or disappointed in themselves, because of their sin. (T)
9. God knew they had done wrong, but let them stay in the garden anyway because He loved them. (F, their sin caused a separation from God)
10. Everyone has sinned and is born with a broken relationship with God. (T)
11. God's love doesn't last forever. (F)
12. Because of God's love, He sent Jesus to die on the cross and rise again so that we could be forgiven of our sins and have life in Him. (T)

VOLUME CONTROL:

Bible Memorization Activity

Have the kids say the verse aloud while using a loud, medium, and soft voice. Then use your hand to control the volume of the verse *while* the kids recite it. For instance, raise your hand high for the high volume, and lower your hand for lower volume. Change the volume throughout the verse to keep it interesting. Choose children who know the verse well to control the volume.