



Discussion Guide

Section #3: ADAM AND EVE LIVING IN HAPPINESS IN THE GARDEN

Read to the Group: God provided everything in the Garden of Eden for man and woman to enjoy life to the fullest.



Group Question:

1. How did God show His care for Adam and Eve?

Leader Information: Possible responses...

- Created a wife for Adam
- Gave them a large variety of things to eat, a beautiful garden to live in
- Talked to them
- Gave them animals of every type to watch over and enjoy

Read to the Group: *God's Story* talks a great deal about choices.

Group Questions:

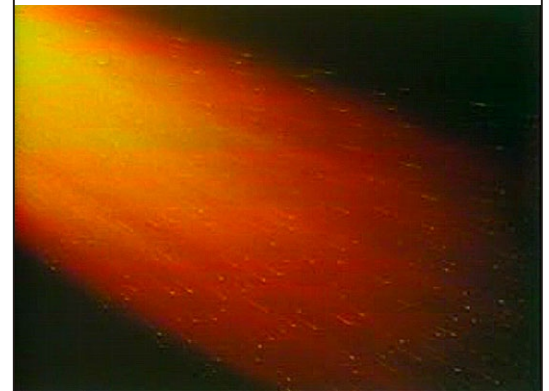
1. Has there ever been a time when you or your children made a bad personal choice?
2. What were the consequences of that choice?

Leader Information: Be prepared to share a brief example from your own life.



Show the Following Segment from the *God's Story* video:

Watch from "And the evening and morning were the 6th day" (Space to close-up of globe)... through... "When bad choices are made" (Stream of light) 6 minutes, 18 seconds



Read to the Group: This is a quote from *God's Story* that is good to remember.

Freedom to choose does not bring happiness when bad choices are made.

The next section will show us something about sin. We always hesitate to call our bad choices sin because it would classify us as a 'sinner.' In our eyes it seems acceptable to call a bad criminal a sinner, but in politeness we usually avoid referring to non-criminals as sinners... especially ourselves. But we need to honestly investigate a correct definition of sin.

Group Questions:

1. At what point do you think a bad choice should be considered a sin?
2. What kinds of things do you think should be included in the definition of a sin?
3. What things do you think a perfect God would include?

Leader Information: These questions give you a chance to explain God's definition of sin as outlined in the Leader Information below.

Read this Scripture to the Group: As a concerned creator, God wrote His description of sin. He says in the Bible:

“Who ever commits sin breaks also the law: for sin is the breaking of the law” (1 John 3:4).

According to God, we can sin in many ways such as...

- Doing things that we know are wrong.
- Not doing things that we know we should do.
- Dwelling on bad thoughts in our mind. (If you are so angry with your boss that you think about ways to take revenge, this is a sin. When a man sees a woman he may have a instant feeling toward her. This is not a sin in itself. It is when he chooses to dwell or think about the woman in an inappropriate way that it becomes sin.)
- Breaking the laws of man and God, even if we haven't yet heard of that law.

Group Question:

1. What seems to be the difference between the laws that people make and the laws of God?

Read to the Group: From these examples we discussed, you can see that by God's measurement we all have sinned. None of us is perfect in every way. God's standard is higher than ours. His standard is perfection. We all have at least one black mark on a blank page. Let me show you what I mean. *(Hold up a white page of paper then use a pen or pencil to put black marks on it and explain.)*

This page is our life, and the marks on it represent our sin. Surely, we can all admit to having at least one sin in our life? Most of us will probably admit that we have at least one a

day, so we can see by the end of our life, that the page will be full of black marks. (*Continue to add more marks on the paper as you speak.*)

We were not the first people to sin. Soon, in the next video selection, you will see that Adam and Eve chose to disobey God's one command. They sinned. As we see in the story what happened to them because of their sin, we will find out what will happen to us.

Group Questions:

1. From what you can see about God's beautiful creation, can you think of any reason why Adam and Eve wouldn't believe that God had already given them the best?
2. Why might they choose to disobey?
3. What kind of parallels do you see in the lives of our children?
4. In what ways do youngsters ever use their own reasoning to choose to go against the directions of their parents, even when their elders know what is best for them?
5. Even when your parents were right, did you ever disobey them? Why?

Read to the Group: Another way God chooses to define sin is “Going our own way.” Adam and Eve chose to be independent of God. They disobeyed and decided to go their own way, not God's way. Sometimes children choose to express their independence by making their own choices, even when their elders know that it is the wrong choice for them.

Read this Scripture to the Group:

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

Transition Statement: This explanation of sin may be a little hard to understand, but as we continue watching the video, you will begin to see a repeating pattern of sinful choices in the stories. Sometimes these choices are obviously disobedience. At other times the actions will be more subtle. As we watch more of the video now, (*or next time when we meet*), let us look for choices that are made by the men and women of the Bible. Let's see what happens to people who sin, and see if anyone discovers a remedy.