

BIBLE TIME LINE ASSEMBLIES

5. FALL

Bible Base: Genesis 3

Key Christian belief: In the beginning, God gave us a choice.

Aim: To help children appreciate that choices have consequences.

You Will Need:

- Adam And Eve PowerPoint (attached)

Note: You will need to come with a fake 'bruise' on your forehead, a cereal bar in your pocket and wearing clothes that are inappropriate for the weather (see below).

Introduction

Usually, I like being able to choose. I love it when someone asks me what I would like for my tea, or for my birthday. The trouble with choices, though, is that often they have consequences. Consequences are the things that happen as a result of the choices you have made.

For example, this morning when the alarm clock went off, I chose to stay in bed for ten extra minutes rather than have breakfast. And because of that I'm starting to feel very hungry... You don't mind if I have a quick nibble now do you...? (Produce cereal bar and look hungrily at it.) Oh well, perhaps you're right...that would be a bit rude, wouldn't it? I'll just have to keep it for later.

When I got up it was dark but I thought I knew where everything was so I chose not to switch the light on. Unfortunately I forgot about the brief case I had left sitting on the stairs. In the dark I tripped over it and bruised my forehead. Ouch! (Reveal bruise)

Also this morning I forgot to check what the weather was like and I chose to wear shorts and a tee shirt. And now I'm freezing! (Or didn't bring an umbrella and now I'm soaked!)

When God made the world, He made us like Him - able to think and make choices for ourselves. We are not like robots or machines that do what they are programmed to do automatically. But sometimes you need to think carefully about the choices you make - because choices have consequences.

God gave the first human beings a very important choice. Let's hear what happened...

Telling The Story

Use the attached PowerPoint as you tell the story below.

Slide 1

In the very good beginning everything and everyone knew how good God was. Everything was perfect in God's world and everyone was happy.

God gave Adam and Eve a beautiful garden to live in and they enjoyed taking care of it and making things grow. But God also gave them one rule to obey. He told them that they were not to eat the fruit of a certain tree. And he told them that if they ever ate the fruit of that tree they would surely die.

And because they knew how good God was, and because there was plenty of other fruit to eat, they never even thought of going near that tree. And still everything was perfect and everyone was happy.

Slide 2

But there was one person who was not happy.

Satan crept into God's beautiful garden looking like a snake.

Satan hated God.

Satan wanted to stop people from loving and obeying God.

Satan wanted to spoil God's world.

So Satan tempted God's people to eat from the tree.

Slide 3

He made them doubt whether God was really as good as they thought He was.

He told them not to listen to God.

He told them they could do whatever they liked.

And he told them, "You will not surely die."

Now Adam and Eve had a choice to make.

Slide 4

They could listen to God or they could listen to Satan.

They could do what God said - or do what they wanted instead.

What do you think that you would have done?

Do you know what Adam and Eve did?

Slide 5

Adam and Eve chose to listen to Satan.

They chose to disobey God.

They chose to do what they wanted instead.

They chose to eat some fruit from the tree.

What a very sad day!

Can you imagine what God thought about all this?

Slide 6

God was not happy. God was very angry.

Slide 7

God cursed the snake.

Slide 8

God punished Eve.

Slide 9

God punished Adam too.

Slide 10

And God put both of them out of the garden in which they had lived with God.

Exploring Christian Belief

The Bible teaches us that the first human beings chose to disobey God and says that sadly, human beings ever since have done the same. And Christians believe that it is because of the wrong choices we have made that our world is no longer the perfect world that God meant it to be. God never intended that there would be any sickness. He never intended that there would be any fighting. He never intended that there would be any pollution in the air or in the rivers. These things are part of our world because of the wrong choices that we have made.

But by far the worst result of Adam and Eve's disobedience was that they were no longer able to live in God's presence. The wrong things we do separate us from God.

However, even on this sad day God made a promise. Instead of destroying the world there and then, He promised that one day He would send someone to put everything right again. One day all the wrong things we have ever done will be forgiven, all the things that spoil our world will be gone and human beings will once again be able to live with God in a perfect world forever.

Slide 11

In the meantime, God asks us to trust Him and to believe His promise. And He offers His love and friendship still to those who choose to trust Him and follow His way.

And Christians believe that is the most important choice that anyone ever has to make.

For Reflection / Application

Encourage pupils to think about the consequences for themselves and for others of the choices they make.

Prayer