



Lesson 2

The Giver of Good Gifts

Large Group Lesson & Games

<p>Bible Story</p> <p>Adam and Eve</p> <p><i>Genesis 1-3</i></p>	<p>Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A bag of individually wrapped candies• One plastic cup per child• One object (a pool noodle, a frisbee, a bandana, etc.)• Seven images, printed in color• Seven #10 envelopes
<p>Bible Verse</p> <p>“Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.”</p> <p><i>James 1:17, New Living Translation</i></p>	
<p>Key Teaching Point</p> <p>Receive the good gifts God gives.</p>	



Large Group Lesson

(15 Minutes)

For the large group lesson, print the six colored images at the end of this lesson, fold them up and place them into seven different envelopes. Label the envelopes the following and then hide them in the large space:

- Gift #1: All of Creation
- Gift #2: The Garden, A Dwelling Place
- Gift #3: Fruit Trees & Plants for Food
- Gift #4: A Special Purpose
- Gift #5: God's Wisdom
- Gift #6: Relationship with God and One Another
- Gift #7: Commands from God (Protection)

Send the children out to look for the hidden envelopes. The seven children that find the envelopes will be invited to stand up in front of the group and must order themselves by the number on their envelope.

Today we're going to look at some of the gifts the first two humans on the earth, Adam and Eve, received from God. Then we're going to see how they responded to those gifts.

Open up the envelope labeled Gift #1 and show the image.

Even before Adam and Eve were created and placed on the earth, God prepared a place for them. Before God created the heavens and the earth, there was only darkness, disorder and chaos. How does that sound to you? So, his first gift to his created people was a beautiful creation filled with light, order and purpose. He created the sun, moon and stars. He created the waters and dry ground, and the sky above. He created time and seasons. He created plants and trees, to serve as food for the animals and human beings. He gave animals and plants the ability to create more of the same kinds of animals and plants.

Open the envelope labeled Gift #2 and show the image.

God created all of creation, but he also created a special dwelling place, a special home for human beings: a garden, the garden of Eden. This garden was a garden that God himself planted. God himself (not Adam and Eve) made all sorts of trees grow up from the ground, beautiful trees that produced delicious fruit. God designed a river to flow through this garden to keep the garden well-watered.

Open the envelope labeled Gift #3 and show the image.



God provided Adam and Eve with lots of fruit trees that were not only beautiful but also provided delicious fruit for food. God provided for their physical needs, and they were without lack. Not only that, but in the Garden of Eden, God also placed the tree of life, that they could also eat from. What do you think that tree provided for Adam and Eve?

Take student responses.

Open the envelope labeled Gift #4 and show the image.

God gave human beings a special purpose: to multiply and spread the goodness of God across the earth, to tend to and watch over the Garden of Eden that God himself created and to bring forth all of God's purposes and desires for his creation! That's a very special purpose!

Open the envelope labeled Gift #5 and show the image.

God gifted Adam and Eve (and all of creation!) with his wisdom, with his definitions of what is good and what is bad. When God was creating the heavens and the earth, he declared, "This is good" and when he created human beings, he said, "This is very good!" God also made known what was not good:

"It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him!"

"You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden— except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die."

The gift God gave to humankind is his perfect wisdom about what is good for us and for creation and what is not.

Open the envelope labeled Gift #6 and show the image.

In the Garden, Adam and Eve were able to enjoy a perfect relationship with God and with one another. They could spend time with God and converse with him. Adam and Eve had no shame or fear, no reason to pull away from each other or from God. They enjoyed peace and oneness with each other and with God, there was no division or separation between them.

Open the envelope labeled Gift #7 and show the image.

Another gift God gave to Adam and Eve was his commands, or his protection. Let's look at some of the commands that God gave:

"You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden— except the



tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.” (This was God’s protection from their spiritual and physical death.)

“Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.” (God wanted to protect their special purpose.)

Wow! These are some GOOD gifts. But as with any gift, Adam and Eve could choose to receive these gifts. One day, Adam and Eve decided to take for themselves instead of receiving from God himself.

Read Genesis 3:1-9:

The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?”

“Of course, we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,” the woman replied. “It’s only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, ‘You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.’”

“You won’t die!” the serpent replied to the woman. “God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.”

The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful, and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So, she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too.

In this short passage, we see that Eve neglected some of the gifts God gave her. God had given humankind a command to reign over all the animals of the earth. Did Eve obey this command here in her interaction with the serpent?

Take student responses.

God also had given Adam and Eve his own wisdom, telling them what was good and what was evil. Instead, Eve decided to take for herself wisdom, instead of receiving the gift of wisdom that came from God himself.

Let’s look at today’s Bible verse:

“Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.” James 1:17, NLT.



Whatever is good and perfect is a GIFT FROM GOD because it's a reflection of who God is and what he is like. God is good, perfect and holy. What do you think this verse tells us about things that we take for ourselves?

Take student responses.

It is better to receive the good gifts God gives! We're going to talk about this more in small groups.

Dismiss children to their small groups.



Large Group Games

(25 Minutes)

STEAL THE BACON

Materials needed: One object (a pool noodle, a frisbee, a bandana, etc.)

Divide the group into two equal teams. Ask the teams to stand face-to-face in two parallel lines, with enough gap in between. Find one object (a pool noodle, a frisbee, a bandana, etc.) to represent the “bacon” and place it in the center between the two lines. Assign a number (in sequence to each member of a team, so that every member of one side has a counterpart with the same number on the opposing team. Call out a number at random from the assigned numbers, and the students with that assigned number should try to grab the object in the center. The team that gets the object gets a point. Return the object back to the center before calling another number. The team with the highest score at the end of the game wins!

CUP O’ CANDIES RELAY

Preparation: Fill two plastic cups with the same number of individually wrapped candies. Divide students into two equal teams and have them form lines in a relay style. (You may need more than two teams for larger groups of children.) Give each child in line an empty plastic cup, except the first person in line for each team who should be given a candy-filled cup.

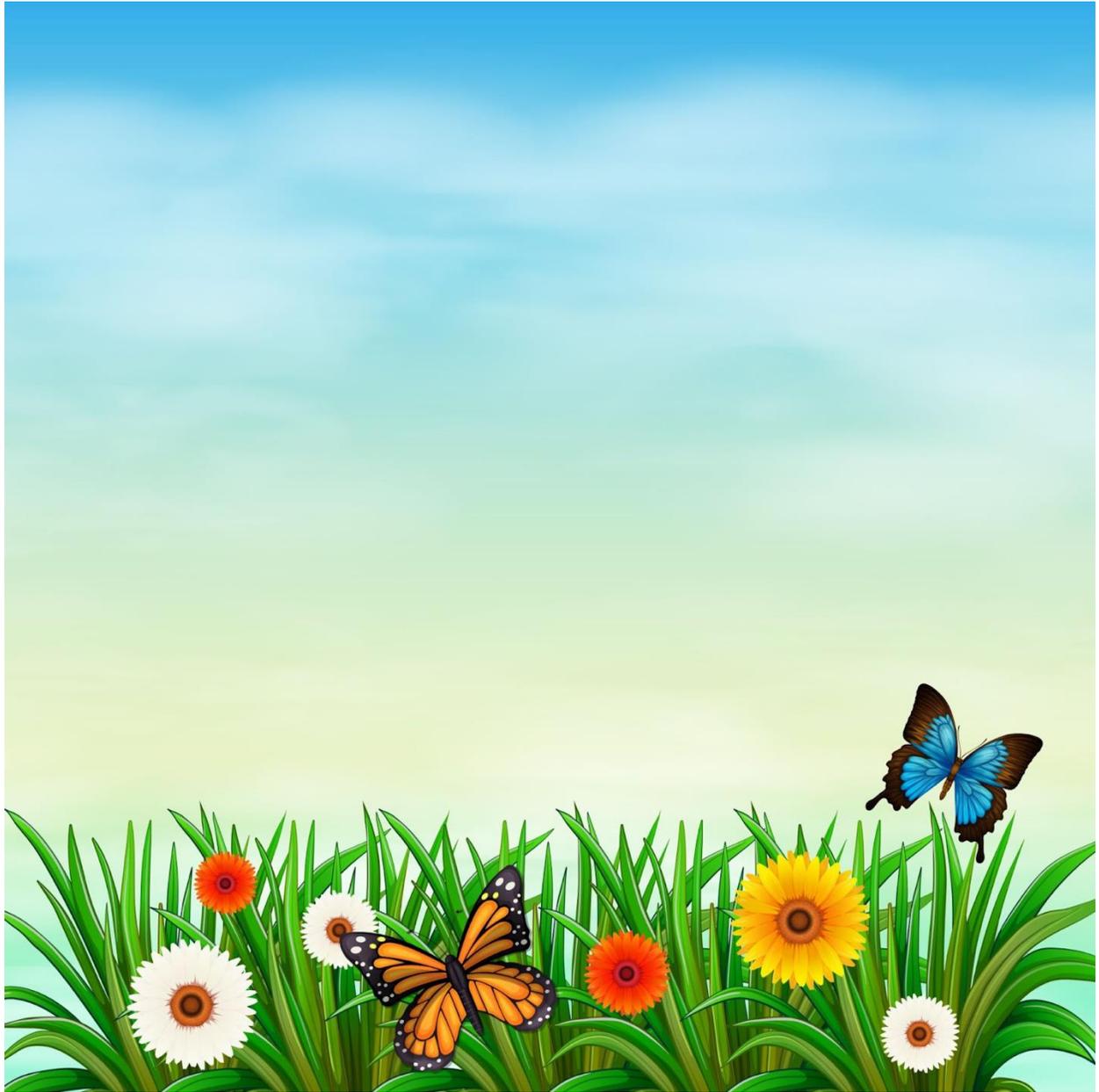
To begin, the first person in line for each team will pass the candy in their cup by dumping the candy over their head into the next person’s cup behind them (without looking backwards). The candy will continue to be passed from cup to cup until it gets to the end of the line. For the first round, the team wins if they have the most candy left in the cup by the time they reach the end of the line. For the second round, the team wins if they pass the candy to the end of the line the fastest.



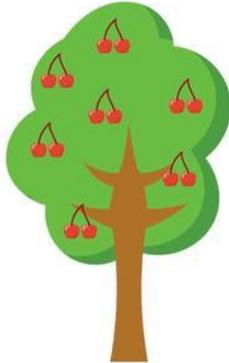
Gift #1



Gift #2



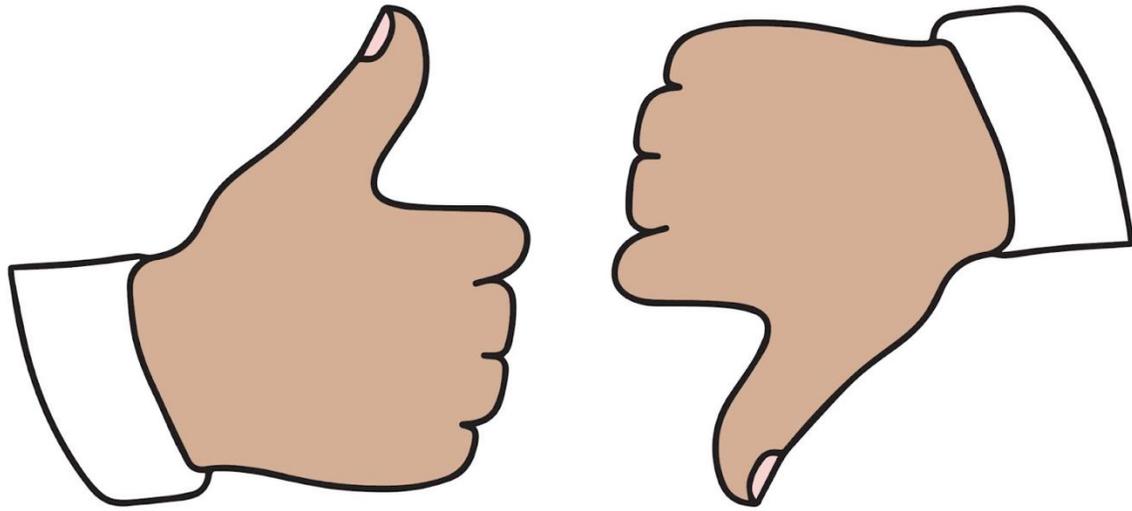
Gift #3



Gift #4



Gift #5



Gift #6



Gift #7

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