

Blessed is the Kingdom: An Orthodox Church School Curriculum



Lesson 2 K-2nd grades

The Fall of Adam and Eve

Objective: Through the story of Adam and Eve students learn that man was created in the image and likeness of God. After the fall, we are striving for a renewed communion with God.

Lesson Introduction

5 min

Begin by **asking students**:

How was the world created?

Take answers, then **say**:

God made the world. Let's watch a video about how he made it.

Play the following video to show how God created the earth and all that is in it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=teu7BCZTgDs>

When finished, **ask** students the following:

What did God make on day 6?

(Animals and Man)



But what did God describe as very good? (Man)

God created man in his own image. We read in Genesis that God said: "Let us make man in Our own image, according to Our likeness". Today we are going to look a little deeper into what this means, but first let's stand up so we can dance along to this Creation video.

Play 5 Minute Bonus video if time permits.



Opening Prayer

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth who art everywhere and fillest all things. Treasury of Blessings, and Giver of Life: Come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good one.

Resources

Expulsion of Adam from Paradise Icon

<https://images.oca.org/icons/lg/prelent/expulsion.jpg>

Icon of Adam and Eve

<https://www.oca.org/reflections/fr.-john-jillions/march-22-2013>

5 Minute Bonus

Play the following video that goes through what was made each day. Encourage students to get up and do the dance moves.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-9 IOeaGhs>

Lesson—25 min

Supplies Needed

One per student:

- Crayons/markers
- Scissors
- Finger puppet printable –black and white version
<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Adam-and-Eve-Bible-Story-finger-puppets-9979731>

One per class:

- Bible
- Device or screen to play video
- Finger puppet printable –color version
<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Adam-and-Eve-Bible-Story-finger-puppets-9979731>
- Icons of the Adam and Eve and their Expulsion from Paradise

Teacher Resource

OCA Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs: A Manual for Adult Instruction

<https://www.oca.org/cdn/PDFs/2023-0609-EOCB.pdf>

Chapter 1 Proskomedia: Blessed is the Kingdom

Liturgy Link

Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

<https://www.oca.org/media/video/20th-aac-thursday-morning-divine-liturgy>

Skip to 18:34 for this portion

Have students sit so they can see you, your set of finger puppets, and your backdrop. Do not hand out students' finger puppets yet.

Explain:

We just reviewed how Adam and Eve were created, and how they were made in the image of God. However, Adam and Eve made a bad choice, and ended up disobeying God. This is called the fall of Adam and Eve, and led to Adam and Eve needing to leave the Garden of Eden. Let's listen to the story from the first book of the Bible, Genesis.



Read Genesis 2:15-17. Using your finger puppets, **act** out what is happening, by having Adam approach the tree, and realize he should not eat it.

Read Genesis 3: 1-7. Again use the finger puppets to act out the scene. Have the snake enter and speak to Eve, have Eve take and eat a fruit, and offer one to Adam. Then **ask**:

What did Eve do that was wrong? (Disobeyed God; ate the fruit when told not to)

What do you think will happen now?

Take answers. Then continue **reading** Genesis 3:8-13. Using the finger puppets, continue having the characters act out the scene in the garden. Then **say**:

What just happened? (Adam and Eve hid)

Why do you think they hid from God?

Take answers, and then **explain**:

By disobeying God, Adam and Eve sinned for the first time. They could then feel shame and fear, so they hid from God. They chose to do something, eat the fruit, for themselves, not choosing to follow God's will. This separated them from God, let's read what happens next.

Read Genesis 3:14-15.

What happened to the serpent? (Slither on his belly; Woman and man will dislike the serpent)

Lesson Continued

Supplemental Idea

Take a Church Walk

Say: Last week we talked about how the Liturgy Link of Blessed is the Kingdom shows that Christ is at the Center of our life and worship. With the fall Adam and Eve lost sight of keeping God at the center of their lives. The rest of the Bible stories and the birth and death of Christ was an effort to help bring mankind back in communion with God.

Take a walk into the church, pointing out the following connections of the Church to the Garden of Eden.

Faces east—as the Garden was entered by the east.

Golden seven branched lamp stand—symbolizes the Garden of Eden

Look for cherubs guarding the Royal Doors, much like the Cherubim set to guard the gates to the Garden

Palm leaves, grapes, and flowers carved or painted on the walls or iconostasis.

Read more here:

<https://orthochristian.com/7155.html>



Read Genesis 16-19. Then **ask:**

What happened to Eve? (Pain in childbirth; Adam will rule over her)

What happened to Adam? (He will work the earth)

Finally, let's see the last thing that happens.

Read Genesis 3:21-24. Then **say:**

To protect Adam and Eve from eating the Tree of Life, God removed them from the Garden of Eden. They lost communion with God like they had in the Garden. Since this time of Adam and Eve, God has been guiding us back to communion with Him. He loves us, and wants us to follow His will. What tools do you think God has given us to help guide us back to him?

Take answers, and **guide** them to some of the following:

- *Praying: help us communicate with God*
- *Fasting: help us overpower our body's desire for things, like candy or anger*
- *Attending Church: our church building is set up much like the Garden of Eden was by facing East; Christ's cross is like the tree bringing Salvation and joy, not death.*

Then **continue:**

I have a set of finger puppets for you each to color and take home, so you can tell the story of Adam and Eve to your families.

Pass out their puppets, crayons/markers, and scissors. Have students spend time coloring their finger puppets. For younger students, you may want to have them already cut out.



As students finish, have them practice acting out the story themselves, and encourage them to take the finger puppets home to tell the story to their families.

Lesson Activities

Mirror Craft—10 min

Supplies needed: small mirror tiles (these can be found on Amazon or oriental trading; acrylic paint pens or permanent markers; printed likeness verse tags; ribbon; glue;

Ask students:

When God created the world, he made one thing in His own image. What was that? (Man; woman; us)

Then **continue:**

To remind you of this, we are going to create a mirror craft. Every time you look in it, you can be reminded that you were created in the image and likeness of God.

Using the acrylic paint pens or permanent markers, have students decorate the outer sides of their mirror, leaving the center clear so they can see themselves. When done, attach a ribbon and a tag with the Bible verse Genesis 1:26. (See last page of lesson for a printable)



Closing Thoughts— 5 min

Show students the icons of Adam and Eve in Paradise, and the Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise. Point out the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the serpent, the cherubim guarding the Garden.

Good vs. Evil Game (Red light; Green light)—10 min

Supplies needed: space to line students up across from you; red paper & green paper

Students stand in a line at one end of the room. The teacher stands at the other side of the room facing the students. This game works like red light/green light, except instead of the words red light/green light, the person who is it, will call out good and bad things. For example, when they call out "prayer", all the students start running toward the leader's side of the room. If they call out "lying", all students must freeze. If a student keeps moving, then they have to go back to the starting line. Examples of things to call out:

Good (Green)

*Prayer
Attending church
Sharing
Fasting
Listening*

Bad (Red)

*Lying
Stealing
Anger
Hitting
Fighting*

Start by reviewing the list of good and bad things, and why it is important to focus on the good things to become more Christ-like and seek communion with God like Adam and Eve had prior to the fall. Have students brainstorm addition good and bad things that could be used in the game. With younger students, you may want to hold up a green or red paper to help them quickly decide if something is a good or bad action during the game.

Closing Prayer

It is truly meet to bless you, O Theotokos, ever-blessed and most pure, and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without defilement you gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos we magnify you!

Craft Printable Tags

Then God said,
"Let Us make
man in Our
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Genesis 1:26

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