

Adam and Eve had a problem. They were placed by God in the most beautiful place ever: it was called the Garden of \_\_\_\_\_. In this beautiful garden there were no weeds. Imagine a garden where no weeds grew. Don't you just hate to pick weeds on a hot summer day? When you went to pick a rose, you didn't have to worry about getting picked. The dogs and cats didn't chase each other; the lions and lambs lay down together, and the only two people who lived there never fussed. How would you like to have a home in which more than one individual lived with no fussing? Perhaps you say, Mr. Bill what problem could **they** have had? God had made a rule for the garden, only one rule, most homes have many rules. What was that rule? Thou shalt not eat of the tree in the midst of the garden (the tree of the knowledge of good and evil). At first, what did they care? God had given them thousands of trees to eat the fruit thereof, so why should not eating of one tree bother them? But one day Eve was standing there looking at the tree wondering why God had told Adam to tell her not to eat of that fruit. Is that how it happened? Well, God made Adam first and told him not to eat of that tree; then after He made Eve, He didn't repeat His warning. So, Adam had to tell Eve and (since no one likes to be told what to do) she was wondering if it was really so. Suddenly a voice spoke to her: "Hath God said, ye shall not eat of the tree in the midst of the garden?" As she turned, she saw a SNAKE. Did she jump? Was she scared? No! No one in the garden was dangerous. But how was the snake speaking? Satan had entered the snake and was speaking to her. Eve answered, "We can't eat of that tree neither can we touch it, lest we die." The snake said, "Ye shall not surely die, for God doth know that in the day you eat thereof ye shall be as gods knowing good and evil." What a liar Satan is! Imagine trying to get out of obeying someone. There will always be someone to obey: parents, teachers, bosses, sergeants, wives, husbands, and yes, God Himself. You should decide whom you are required to obey and then do it. If you do, you will be happy. Eve believed the lie, ate the fruit, and lost everything. She lost her clothes (the clothing of righteousness), and she lost her innocence. She took the fruit to Adam suggesting that he eat of it. She made no promise to him, he was not deceived, he knew what he was doing. When he ate the fruit, he made it so that every child since then was born in sin. Suddenly they realized their problem: sin and what do you do about it. That problem is our problem as well. Every child born since then has been born in sin. "In sin did my mother conceive me." Because we are born in sin, we face the next problem: "For all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God." Everyone will deliberately sin (as soon as they are told not to do something, they immediately want to do it and most do the wrong.) The Bible also says "The heart is deceitful and desperately wicked." Are you deceitful? Do you ever sneak into the kitchen to try to get cookies when you aren't supposed to? Did you get caught? God says we are all sneaky. God also says we are very wicked. Imagine a teenager taking a gun to school and shooting his classmates. Is that teen any different from the average teen who rejects the ways of God? God says we are all wicked. The Bible also says "There shall in no wise enter it (Heaven) anyone that makes a lie." Have you ever told a lie? Haven't we all? God says that no liars will be in Heaven. You and I all have the same problem: sin, and what do you do about it.

What did Adam and Eve do about their sin? They tried to cover themselves with fig leaves. What a sight they must have been with matching green leaf clothes. But when God came to see them in the cool of the evening, they ran and hid. Why? Because covering your sins by anything you or I can do will never make God happy, and we know that it's so. God called to them "Where art thou?" When they answered they said that they were afraid of God, and of course God knew why they were afraid": Have you eaten of the tree that I told you not to eat of? Adam immediately blamed Eve who in turn blamed the serpent, who, since he couldn't talk

anymore, was unable to blame anyone. What would God do to correct this situation and provide forgiveness for Adam and Eve? God's plan involved a lamb that was in some way put to death; the blood was poured out, and the skin of that lamb was used to make clothes for Adam & Eve. They should have died, but God allowed the lamb to die in their place as a substitute. When they accepted this offering by allowing themselves to be clothed with this skin, their sins were forgiven and their relationship with God was restored.

What about you and me? We are sinners; we deserve to go to Hell when we die; how can we be forgiven? Christ died in our place as our substitute, but He died for all, and obviously all will not go to Heaven. What more must we do to be saved? First, we must repent of our sins: God will not forgive anyone who will not turn away from their sins. But we must also put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ and in the precious blood that He shed for our sins. It is His Blood alone that can wash away sins. "The Blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin." Dear boy or girl, if you have never invited Jesus Christ into your heart to save you and cleanse you from all your sins, you could do so now. Bow your head, ask Jesus to come into your heart, to wash away your sins with His Blood, and to save you. If you did ask Him to save you, He did it: indeed He promised that He would. "For whosoever shall call upon the Name of the lord, shall be saved."

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